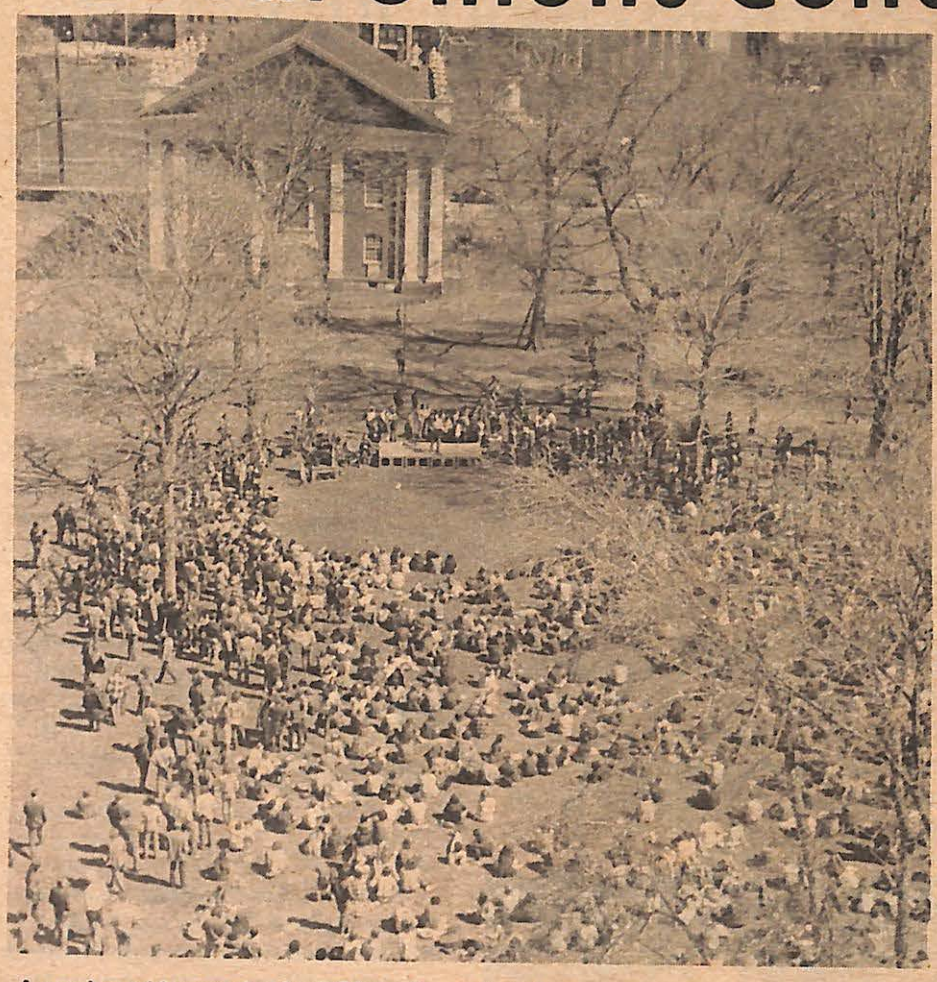
Local Unions Condemn War Step Up



A speaker addresses the April 21st rally against the war. (M-T photo by Dave Vine)

by David Adams
Modern Times Staff

Support from organized labor for Nixon's war policies is beginning to fall apart, just like support for his Pay Board disintegrated.

The Central Labor Council of Greater New Haven took the lead nationally when they voted at their regular meeting April 18 to condemn the new escalation of the war. The 50 delegates adopted the resolution unanimously and sent it to Nixon. The Labor Council represents 20,000 workers in the dozens of AFL-CIO unions in the Greater New Haven area.

On the national scene, George Meany still supports the war, but many sectors of the labor movement are coming out publicly in opposition. Victor Reuther of the UAW(auto workers), David Livingston of District 65(distributive workers), and Pat Gorman of the Amalgamated Meatcutters have joined with 22 congressmen and many anti-war groups in calling for an anti-war moratorium for one hour at noon May 4.

National Unionists vs. War

Fifteen major union leaders, including representatives of the teamsters, autoworkers, electrical workers, meatcutters,distributive workers and hospital workers signed a call for labor support of the April 22 peace rallies.

Labor-supported Democrats George McGovern, Hubert Humphrey and Edmund Muskie have all condemned the new escalation of the war.

One New Haven union has already held a token moratorium to protest the bombings of North Vietnam. Members of Local 35 of the Federation of University Employees at Yale stopped work for five minutes on April 21 as a gesture of protest. Local 35's action was initiated by its bargaining committee which is presently negotiating contract issues with the University (see page 1 story). They emphasized that the work stoppage was aimed against the war, not against the University.

Statement by Local 35

A press statement by Local 35 emphasized that "the working people of the United States have suffered most because of the war. This brutalwar has taken more of our sons and more of our hard-earned money through taxes and inflation than any other segment of the society.

Continued on Page 4.

MODERN TIMES

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New Haven Unions Hold The Line

Union Reopens Talks With Yale

Local 35 is back at the bargaining table with Yale University --but this time only on two specific topics: student employment and part time employment.

There have been three meetings of the bargaining committee of Local 35 and Yale University. The contract between Local 35 and Yale University runs until April 30, 1974, but these specific issues and only these - can be discussed.

Local 35 has the option to strike around these issues any time from May 1 to June 1 this year. Will Local 35 go out on strike? Will the student/part time issues be solved? A press silence is being maintained and there are no statements as of now.

Waiting for Data

The bargaining committee of Local 35 has presented no proposal to Yale; they are waiting for data, which Yale has agreed to provide, on how many hours students worked during the last year.

The arrangement, permitting the reopening of negotiations on these two issues, is contained in two letters which are addenda to the contract signed by Local 35 and Yale University last June.

According to the letters, six limitations on employment of Yale students in bargaining unit jobs will expire June 30, 1972.

See YALE, page 9

Gas Company Union Wins Strike

Gas company workers wait outside Nutmeg Club on Wooster Street for meeting to announce settlement on April 18. (M-T photo by Matt Borenstein.)

by Henry Tamarin
Moder. Times Staff

"Back to work", was the word for 230 members of Local 12021 of District 50 of the Allied and Technical Workers. They overwhelmingly ratified their new contract, Wednesday, April 19, ending their successful 18 day strike against the Southern Connecticut Gas Company.

The ratification vote was originally scheduled for Tuesday afternoon at the Nutmeg Athletic Club on Wooster Street. It was postponed when the company failed to show at a noon meeting to iron out the details of the agreement reached the day before in a Wethersfield meeting with state and federal mediators. The company has consistently obstructed the negotiating process during the entire strike.

Earl Calandro, an international executive of the International Union of District

See GAS, page 9

UE Still Firm In Fifth Week

Two locals of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) are still on strike as they have been since mid-March.

Local 299 (300 members) gets only offers of peanuts from the Continental Telephone Company, owner of Whitney-Blake in Hamden.

Local 298 (80 members) gets less than that. Textron, owner of MB Electronics, threatens to sell the plant or to move the operation elsewhere, then generously offers to reopen with a greatly reduced force hand-picked by management -- seniority out the window.

This tactic, however, does not terrorize MB workers. They have heard it all before -- every time the contract runs out, sometimes more often.

$130,400,000 Profit

Just in case anyone thought that Textron couldn't afford to keep the MB workers on its payroll, UE looked into its profits and found a reported net profit before taxes of $130,400,000.

UE also found that Textron's pension plan for MB workers is less than half of what workers get in other Tex-

See UE, page 9

Sirabella-Franco Trial Ends In Hung Jury

by Andy Melville
Modern Times Staff

The trial of labor leader Vincent Sirabella and his co-defendant Domenic Franco ended in a mistrial Monday, with the jury hopelessly deadlocked 4-2 for acquittal of both. During the third day of deliberations, the judge dismissed the jury after they told him they could not reach a unanimous decision.

The trial was the longest in 6th Circuit Court history. The defendants were accused of charging a police line during the Local 35 demonstration at last year's Yale commencement. The prosecution put on 12 witnesses as well as TV news films in an effort to prove its case.

The prosecution testimony apparently didn't hold up under defense cross-examination. Each officer described the scene differently: some said Sirabella ran full tilt into the line, some said he walked; some said he pushed with his hands, some said he didn't use his hands at all. None had a straight story, and most importantly, all claimed that no policeman beat any of the strikers.

The defendants contended that they had not tried to break the police line, but instead that the police line had charged them. Defense witness John Wilhelm, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 217, Hotel, Restaurant and Bartenders Union, testified that he was about 10 feet behind Sirabella when the police line charged the strikers. Wilhelm said he was beaten three times by the police. The defense also offered film clips taken by TV Channel 8 news photographers showing the police beating Wilhelm, but the trial judge ruled they were "not relevant"!

Sirabella and Franco both took the stand and testified that they had merely tried to picket the graduation ceremonies and were falsely arrested.

The jury---three men and three women---deliberated about 10 hours, before dismissal. One juror afterwards told reporters that the final vote was four for acquittal "and the other two wouldn't budge". Arguments were heavy: the jury could often be heard in heated discussion behind the closed jury room doors.

See SIRABELLA page 5

Ruling Favors Abortions

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

For the first time in 100 years, it has been ruled legal for a woman to have an abortion in Connecticut. The constitutional right of women to determine when they want to bear children was asserted by a three judge federal panel in a two to one decision on April 18.

Thirteen courts have struck down restrictive anti-abortion statutes similar to those of Connecticut in the last three years.

According to Judy Robeson, a member of the group who brought the suit against the law, the ruling "is the clearest statement of women's rights of all the similar decisions that have been handed down in the country."

State to Appeal

Attorney General Robert K. Killian has announced that the state will appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. He requests a ruling that no abortions be permitted until the decision is reviewed.

In the majority opinion Judge J. Edward Lumbard stated that anti-abortion laws "trespass unjustifiably on the personal privacy and liberty of its female citizenry." His decision detailed the changed role of women in society today as opposed to when the 1860 law was passed prohibiting all abortions, attempts at abortion and aid, advice and encouragement to bring about abortion.

Women Vs. Connecticut, an organization of 1500 women, brought the suit to Federal District Court a year ago with Catherine Roraback as chief counsel along with five other women attorneys. The group has launched a lobbying campaign to insure that the decision is not overturned in the state legislature this session. Governor Thomas J. Meskill hopes for the passage of a bill stating that a fetus has all the rights of a born person.

This is the contention of Judge T. Emmet Clarie, who opposed the new ruling. Judge Jon O. Newman, the third on the panel, joined with Judge Lumbard because he felt the 1860 statutes were enacted to protect the woman's health and morals, and not the life of the fetus.

Write State Legislators

"We worked hard to get the decision for abortion rights, and we could lose it if we stop here," stressed Judy Robeson. She urged that all those who want to make sure the decision will not be invalidated write to their State Legislators and to the chairman of the Health and Safety Committee, through which proposals are considered. The chairman is John Prete, 18 Wildwood Terrace, West Haven, 06516.

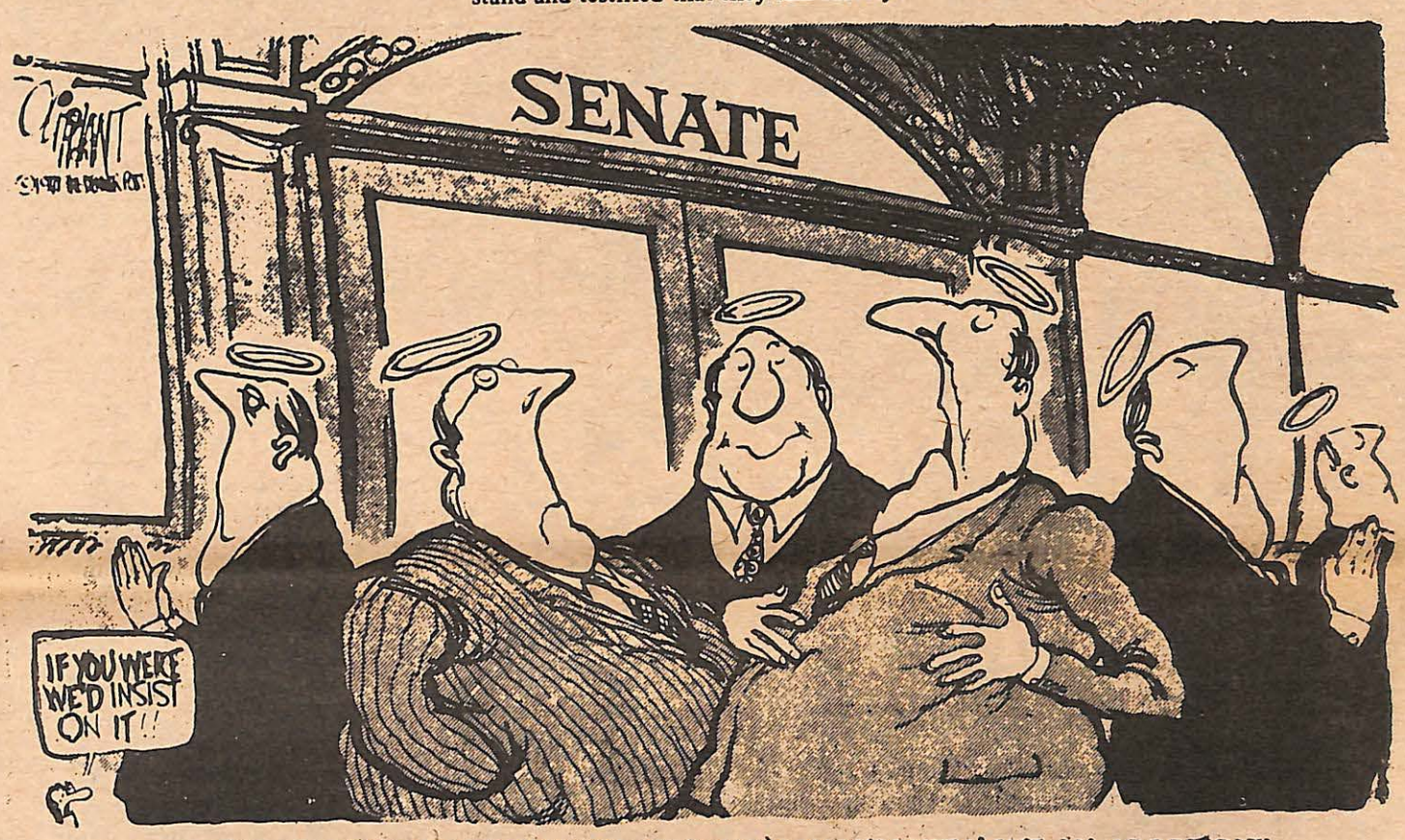
One New Haven state representative, Mary Griswold, backed this effort up when she said, "It is important for those people who want to insure that abortions are legalized and done under safe and sanitary conditions, say so, so the Legislature and the Governor will know how important this is." The present session convenes in May.

Judy Robeson feels that the best thing to happen is for no new legislation to be enacted. "It would mean that abortions would be covered by the laws governing all other medical procedures." she said.

Civil Liberties Union Backs Decision

The decision is a controversial one, and has been frowned upon by some. However, the Connecticut Civil Liberties

See COURT RULING page 5



'WELL, IF I WERE PREGNANT I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE AN ABORTION'

Abortion Ruled a Woman's Right

From Text of Ruling

Excerpts of Judge J. Edward Lumbard's majority decision on abortion in Connecticut follows:

The decision to carry and bear a child has extraordinary ramifications for a woman. Pregnancy entails profound physical changes. Childbirth presents some danger to life and health. Bearing and raising a child demands difficult psychological and social adjustments.

The working or student mother frequently must curtail or end her employment or educational opportunities. The mother with an unwanted child may find that it overtaxes her and her family's financial or emotional resources. The unmarried mother will suffer the stigma of having an illegitimate child.

Status in Society Changed

The Connecticut anti-abortion laws take from woman the power to determine whether or not to have a child once conception has occurred. In 1860, when these statutes were enacted in their present form, women had few rights.

Since then, however, their status in our society has changed dramatically. From being wholly excluded from political matters, they have secured full access to the political arena. From the home, they have moved into industry; now some 30 million women comprise 40% of the work force...

The changed role of women in society and the changed attitudes toward them reflect the societal judgement that women can competently order their own lives and that they are the appropriate decision makers about matters affecting their fundamental concerns.

94% Favor Some Abortions

Thus, surveying the public on the issue of abortion, the Rockerfeller Commission on Population and the American Future found that fully 94% of the American public favored abortion under some circumstances and the Commission itself recommended that the 'matter of abortion should be left to the conscience of the individual concerned.'

Similarly, the Supreme Court has said, "If the right of privacy means anything, it is the right of the individual, married or single, to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child.'...

The statutes force a woman to carry to natural term a pregnancy that is the result of rape or incest. Yet these acts are prohibited by the state at least in part to avoid the offspring of such unions....

Similarly, the statutes require a woman to carry to natural term a fetus likely to be born a mental or physical cripple. But the state has less interest in the birth of such a child than a woman has in terminating such a pregnancy. For the state to deny therapeutic abortion in these cases is an overreaching of the police power.

Fundamental Importance to Women

Balancing the interests, we find that the fundamental nature of the decision to have an abortion and its importance to the woman involved are unquestioned, that in a changing society women have been recognized as the appropriate decision makers over matters regarding their fundamental concerns, that because of the population crisis the state interest in this statute is less than when the statute was passed and that because of its great breadth, the statute intrudes into areas in which the state has little interest.

We conclude that the state's interests are insufficient to take from the woman the decision after conception whether she will bear a child and that she, as the appropriate decision-maker, must be free to choose. What was considered to be due process with respect to permissible abortion in 1860 is not due process in 1972....."

YUAL Backs Labor's Move On Pay Board

The Young Unionist's Action League of the AFL-CIO, is urging support for the position of the AFL-CIO and the United Auto Workers in opposing the Administration's Pay Board. According to an AFL-CIO spokesperson, "The Pay Board is completely dominated by a coalition of the business and so-called 'public members'. . . tools of the Administration, operating in the interests of big business."

The Pay Board was supposed to be set up on a three-part plan, with equal representation of Labor, Business and the Public. The "public" members Nixon appointed to the Board are: Judge George Boldt (chairman) on the Federal payroll as a judge; Arnold Weber, formerly on the Federal payroll; Neil Jacoby, a director of the Occidental Petroleum Corporation; William Caples, former top official of the Inland Steel Corporation and the National Association of Manufacturers; and Kermit Gordon, an economist formerly associated with the Brookings Institute, a research outfit supported by management.

YUAL also questions whether Nixon's wage and price controls are effective. They explain that the wages of working people are easily kept down by employees but profits, interest rates and dividends for the wealthy are not easily kept down.

"In the second half of 1971, the after-tax PROFITS of all corporations were up *19% from the same period of 1970 - nearly* three times faster than the 6.6% increase of total WAGE and SALARY payments to all the nation's employees." (AFL-CIO Executive Council Statement).

To sum up both YUAL's position and the reason that they urge opposition to Nixon's economic policy a YUAL leaflet states: "The union leaders walked off the Pay Board because the Nixon two-pronged price-wage policy has only one prong - and that is dug deep into the consumer, especially those who work for a living."

Brake Pulled On RR Strike

by Slipry Rail

Within two days of the scheduled deadline, President Nixon reached down into his bag of emergency powers and pulled out a 60 day postponement of the showdown between Penn Central and the United Transportation Union (UTU).

The dispute involves the company's attempt to scrap all negotiated work rules—particularly those dealing with size of the crews of train and yard switchers.

Mr. Nixon claimed to be preventing --or at least postponing--not one but *two* railroad strikes. Mr. Nixon was concerned lest the UTU might tie up the Penn Central at the same time as the Sheet Metal Workers International Association ties up the rest of the railroads in the country.

As it turns out, the Sheet Metal Workers had no plans to strike the nations railroads, but the Sheet Metal Workers union was in negotiations that might eventually have led to a strike. Most of the railroad unions are in such negotiations most of the time. But in Mr. Nixon's mind this constituted a threat of a nationwide railroad tie-up that would have meant a national emergency.

Trouble Finding a Job?

"Clark, you've got to stop flying around, screaming: 'This is a job for Superman!' There AREN'T any jobs!"

YNHH Profits But Claims A Loss

by Concerned Hospital Workers

Maybe you have heard that Yale-New Haven Hospital is broke. Rather than listen to your supervisor, listen to these figures from the *Yale-New Haven Hospital Annual Report 1971*, available from the Office of Information and Development, Room 1096 CB, N.H. Unit:

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES IN 1971 $732,540

These are not our figures, these are THEIR OWN FIGURES. It's true they didn't make as much as the year before ($1,546,480), but $700,000 still isn't bad. We wish we were so broke!!!

If Yale-New Haven admits they made so much money, then how can they claim they lost money? It's true they *did* lose money as far as the actual day-to-day operations of the Hospital were concerned. They lost almost $200,000. But at the same time, they made $927,723 -- close to a million dollars -- from their endowment -- the stocks and bonds they have invested in. Since *the money they make from their investments is just as green as what they lost in running the Hospital, they came away $700,000 ahead.*

What do you suppose they did with the $700,000 they made last year, or the million and a half they made the year before, or the millions from years past? Well your guess is as good as ours -- this is one thing they don't tell you in their Annual Report. One last question -- who needs this money more -- them or us, the working people of Yale-New Haven?

Labor Notes

LODGE 609 NEGOTIATING EARLY

International Association of Machinists (IAM), Lodge 609 representing the 1400 production workers at Olin have already completed ten negotiation sessions with the company. The present three-year contract expires on July 1. Mike Rao, 609 president said that most of the groundwork has been covered which is usually done in the three weeks before the contract expires. None of the major economic issues have been discussed yet. The April issue of *609 News* reports to the membership: "Your support has been tremendous -- your negotiating team expresses their appreciation for this support and they urge you to attend your meetings so you may keep informed as to the status of current negotiations."

IS ALL LIFE INSURANCE THE SAME?

When you buy insurance you usually don't compare the rates of the 166 companies who control 95% of the insurance business. Usually you buy insurance from a salesman who represents one or a few companies. The State of Pennsylvania has just issued a consumers guide to life insurance which shows that the costs of some basic policies were almost three times those of others providing the same coverage. Pennsylvania has also issued guides to auto insurance and hospitals in Philadelphia. All these consumer guides have naturally received sharp criticism from the insurance companies. It would be useful to have such consumer guides in Connecticut -- it would be also useful to have an analysis of what "insurance is all about."

HOW LOW THE PROFITS?

In a talk before the Harvard Business Club of New York, Vice President Agnew said a "militantly anti-business attitude" had developed in the nation. He asserted that corporations had only themselves to blame for the rising criticisms because they had failed to "educate" the public about business problems, including "how low your profits really were." Meanwhile, of the first 18 large corporations to report their earnings for the first quarter of 1972, 15 showed gains -- a 19% increase over the first three months of 1972. Some of the largest gains were shown by IBM, General Electric, Westinghouse, duPont, and International Paper.

Two UE Locals Stay Out

Continued from page 1

tron plants in Connecticut -- $3.00 per month for every year of service against $6.00 to $6.50.

Textron also has agreed to wage increases in its other Connecticut plants as high as 8% in one year while offering MB 2½%.

President Well Paid

UE's look at the profits of Continental Telephone, which owns Whitney-Blake, and the income of its top executives was even more revealing. For example:

"Last year the salary for J.P. Maguire, president of Continental, was a cool 125,000, which comes to $60 an hour.

"Just to make sure that Maguire is comfortable in his old age, he is provided with an annual pension of $47,224 or $908 a week.

"The fact is, Maguire's salary alone would more than cover the company's proposed 5.5% wage increase for all 300 Whitney-Blake workers. And by the way, this fat Continental cat, who already had more money than he could spend if he lived to be a thousand, got a 37% raise last year.

"Yet, he wants Whitney-Blake workers, who don't earn enough to keep up with the cost-of-living, to be satisfied with 5.5%.

"He sits on his $1 million nest egg, hugging his $908-a-week pension plan, and says that a pension of $28 a week is is more than enough for Whitney-Blake workers."

Maguire and other Fat Cats want to limit Whitney-Blake workers' wages to 5.5% and pensions to less than $28 a week. UE says, "The truth is, continental can afford to meet every union demand and hardly dent its 1971 profits of $44 million."

Labor Council Support

The Greater New Haven Central Labor Council president, Vincent Sirabella, has pledged full support to Local 299 even though UE is not directly affiliated with the Central Labor Council or with AFL-CIO. According to a letter from the Council to its delegates,

"Local 299 has always supported our requests for financial help when our local unions have been on strike. Also, Local 299 has been a generous contributor to the the Development Fund of the Community Health Care Center Plan.

"Now, it's our turn to help them. Will you please solicit funds from your membership to help support Local 299's strikers. This is the best way we can show our concern for them."

Area Students Plan Anti-War Actions

by Steve Latz
Yale Student

Area students are striking, meeting, leafletting, and demonstrating in response to Nixon's re-escalation of the war in Vietnam. Nearly 2000 students from six colleges gathered at Yale's Woolsey Hall April 20 and began discussing various city-wide proposals.

The undergraduates, representing South Central Community College, University of New Haven, Yale, Southern Connecticut State College, Quinnipiac College, and Albertus Magnus are continuing activities at their schools this week.

Proposals at the meeting included those calling for massive civil disobedience on the Connecticut turnpike, an open-ended student strike, a one-day student moratorium, a symbolic fast for 24 hours, and working for Senator George McGovern in the upcoming Massachusetts Democratic primary.

Another proposal called for canvassing in the New Haven community in support of a general work stoppage on May 4.

A vast majority of those in attendance supported the idea of a one-day strike at the area colleges. The proposal favoring a more open-ended strike passed by a narrower margin, 469-369. The meeting also endorsed the call for a May 4 general strike in the New Haven community.

Strikes at Area Schools

Student strikes occurred at Quinnipiac, Southern Connecticut, Yale and the University of New Haven on Friday April 21. *Activities included rallies, workshops, and teach-ins. A memorial service for war* dead was held at Yale. In addition, a rally was held on the New Haven Green, attended by nearly one thousand people. Although most students returned to class on Monday, many vowed to continue stepped up anti-war activities.

Students met over the April 22 weekend to discuss ways in which they might support a May 4 general work stoppage in New Haven area factories and offices, should it occur. Several students are expected to participate in door-to-door canvassing later this week. Others hope to contact area unions to urge their support of the May 4 strike. At Yale, 700 students fasted from Sunday evening to Monday evening.

Demonstration at Sikorsky

On Monday, April 17, over two hundred people gathered outside Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford to protest the air war being waged by the U.S. against Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Participants attempted a symbolic "citizen's arrest" of several management officials, charging them with crimes against humanity. Demonstrators also cited the increasing number of layoffs in Connecticut defense industries and called for initiation of industry conversion.

Police arrested sixty demonstrators for their acts of peaceful disobedience. All were released later that afternoon on their own recognizance.

Protest Across U.S.

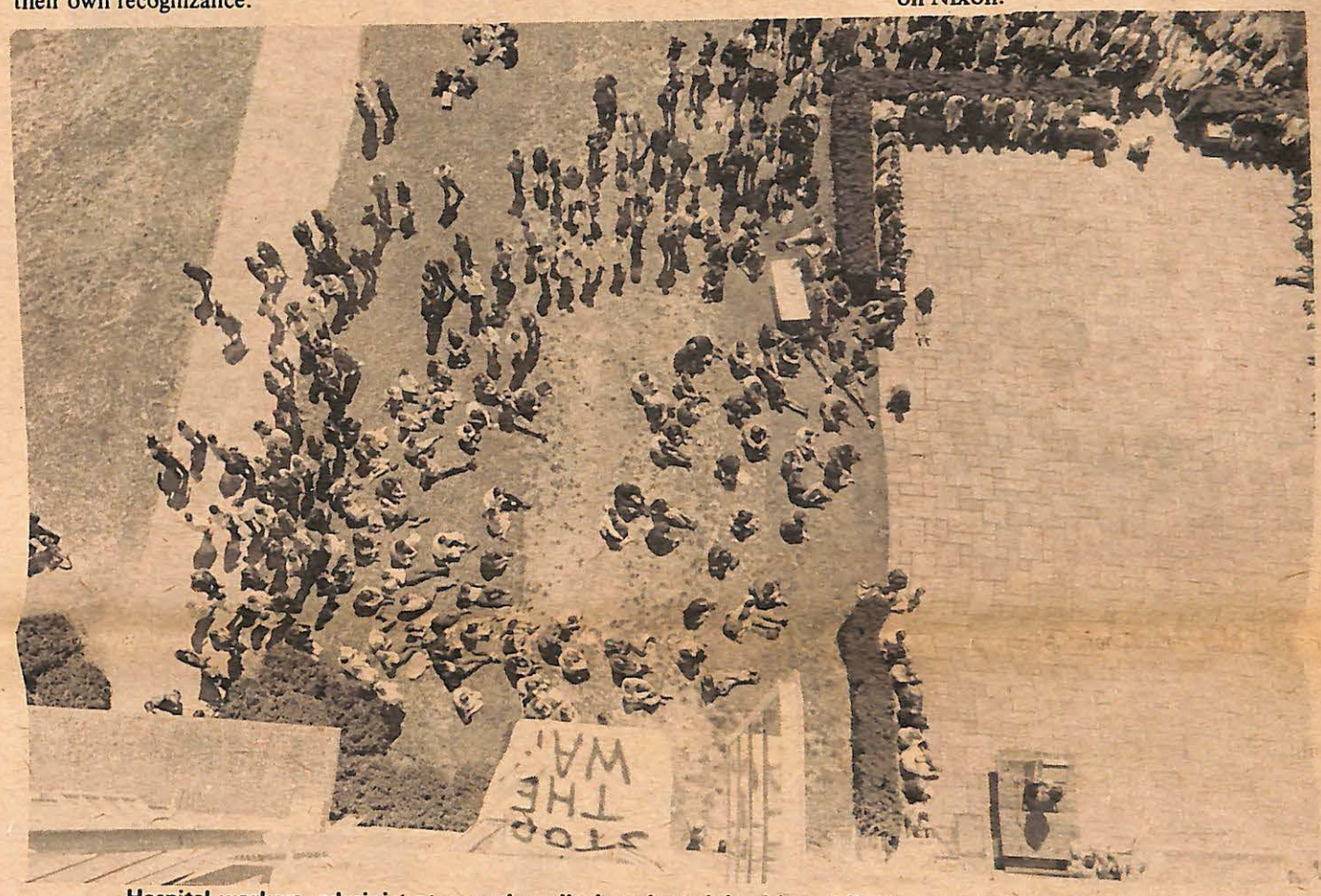
Around the country, protest continues. Last weekend, nearly fifty thousand people gathered for anti-war demonstrations in both San Francisco and New York. At over one hundred colleges and universities, students went on strike for varying periods of time. Most demonstrations were peaceful, but unrest prevailed at the Universities of Maryland, Texas, Wisconsin, Illinois at Champaigne, Columbia University and Harvard.

The bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong continues, while Nixon and his advisors consider initiation of new and more dangerous strategies – the blockading of Haiphong Harbor, the use of tactical nuclear weapons, invasion of Vietnam by a division of U.S. Marines. Many students have given up in dispair. Others are resorting to more violent forms of protest. These include the destruction of ROTC buildings, war-oriented social science research centers and air force and army recruiting stations.

Students' Tactics

Some see such outbreaks as the result of "spoiled kids who don't have enough to do" or students who have given in to overwhelming personal frustration in their failure to bring an end to the war.

But such violent tactics are not without rationale, some students contend. Many feel that the limited use of violence – targeted against war-related property, not people – is an effective way of limiting Nixon's options. They point out his refusal to listen to moral protest or opinion polls at a time when a majority of the American people favor an end to the war. Creation of limited social conflict, is one of the few ways of exercising any restraint on Nixon.



Hospital workers, administrators and medical students joined in a rally to protest the renewed bombing of North Vietnam. They gathered outside Harkness Medical Dorm, April 21. (M-T photo by Dave Vine)

Pete Seeger & his Banjo Return

Pete Seeger sang at Woolsey Hall Sunday night, April 23. He spoke about his trip to Hanoi and sang some Vietnamese songs. He is holding a chart showing how little money the government spends on controlling pollution.
(M-T photo by V.Comisso)

Central Labor Council Hits Bombing

Continued from page 1

"Mr. Nixon's war policies have resulted in a freeze of our wages while at the same time prices for food, rents, utilities and other necessities are skyrocketing. Also, higher and higher taxes at both the state and municipal levels further erode the paychecks of our working men and women."

The University of New Haven Faculty Federation (Local 2064) unanimously endorsed and supported the resolution adopted by the Council..

Press coverage of labor's opposition to the bombings has not been adequate. The *New Haven Register* carried a story on the first page in its early editions concerning the unprecedented vote of the Central Labor Council. But readers of the late city edition would have missed the story altogether unless they were browsing through the obituary page, where it got buried.

The next day, when Local 35 announced their token work stoppage, the *Register* carried the news under a contradictory headline "ITU Backs War Effort". The headline announced that the typographers union had split ranks with the rest of the Central Labor Council and disagreed with the anti-bombing resolution.

Labor Leader Gives Support

Vincent Sirabella, President of the Central Labor Council, supported the anti-war rally which took place on the Green on April 21. While the rally was going on, a jury was deliberating across the street in the case of Sirabella and Domenic Franco, charged with disorderly conduct in the picketing during the Yale strike last year. (See story page 2)

The full text of the Central Labor Council's resolution, which was sent to President Nixon, follows:

"WHEREAS, it is the sincere hope of all Americans that the war in Vietnam ends as soon as possible: and

"WHEREAS, it is the working people of America who bear the heaviest burden of this war, in dead or wounded sons, in inflation and higher taxes, and in an unstable and unhealthy economy; and

"WHEREAS, President Nixon promised during his election campaign to bring peace:

"Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, condemns and deplores President Nixon's re-escalation of the war in Vietnam, and especially his resumption of all-out bombing in North Vietnam."

Court Ruling On Abortions Faces Block

Continued from page 2.

Union, in a special statement, emphasized that no one is forced to give or have an abortion now. Rather there is freedom of choice. The lawyers also supported the decision because now, "physicians can feel free to follow their own medical opinion, in accord with the wishes of the woman," the statement said.

Katrina Clark, co-chairman of one organization of doctors, the Medical Committee for Human Rights, feels her organizations job will be to "insure that there are adequate and low-cost abortions in the State." She hopes her group can make the medical institutions and practitioners "more responsive to the increased demand" that will be apparant.

Once the legal questions are settled, Women Vs. Connecticut plans to set up a women's health clininc, for abortion service as well as other medical needs of women.

CBCI Prison Contacts Grow

by John Batchelor
Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions

The Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions (CBCI) has been strengthening its contacts with the inmates of Somers prison since the recent hunger strike there.

A recently released inmate told the group that "the place is all right physically but it's the atmosphere that affects you."

He said that the first two months after arrival are spent in solitary confinement while the inmate is "evaluated " and "oriented" to his new surroundings and classified for a job. Only then does he have contact with other inmates.

Poor Education, Medical Care

Special areas which were criticized were education and health. Whatever the facilities are like it is no help if the teachers cannot relate to the needs of the inmates.

As for medical care, there is no doctor in the facility at night and on weekends, Even when there is, dispensing of drugs is is a big problem. Very often those who receive the drugs are not those who were supposed to

Worst of all, though, is the lack of contact with the outside. Prisoners who have no family tend to withdraw and adapt to the prison system. When they are discharged, they find it almost impossible to adjust to the outside world.

Contacts Difficult

However, the prisons administration does not make contacts easy between those on the inside and those on the outside, unless they are channeled through the Connecticut Prisons Association (CPA) a private organization sharing the offices of the Dept. of Corrections.

Members of CBCI, including the education committee, have been refused permission to visit several state institutions. Recently a representative of the CPA said this was nonsense and promised he could show them round any prison they wanted. When they tried to take him up on the offer he never came through with it. Probably someone higher up said "No again."

At present all mail into and out of the state prisons is still censored and inmates are not supposed to receive unsolicited visits or correspondence. In the last month CBCI has received a flood of mail from inmates, the word passing round from one inmate to another that someone on the outside is really trying to do something for them, at last.

'Social, Political Nourishment'

Rev. Jim Davis of CBCI recently visited inmates at Somers prison. He had had so many requests for visits that he had to arrange to meet them all in a group. They were anxious for "social and political nourishment." Rev. Davis took with him copies of "struggle for Justice" a new report by the American Friends Service Committee which overturns 300 years of fruitless ideas on prison reform.

CBCI feels that corresponding with inmates is a really top priority in helping the inmates and finding out what really goes on in the prisons. If you would like to write to inmates, please contact Jim Davis, 624-2521.

Differing Rules

Besides the closed doors of the institutions another impediment to improving the system is the differing rules enforced from place to place. For the last year the *newly formed Alcohol Council has been trying to help alcoholics in the city lock up and the Whalley jail. However, when they go along to the jail to hold Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, they are invariably turned away and told,"There are no guards available."* Yet at Bridgeport and Danbury there are AA meetings all the time with no guards present!

Another example is that the chaplain at Somers seems to enforce unofficial censorship of literature and invitations to outside clergy.

As long as the prisons remain secret and closed places, little will change.

CCLU Files Suits

The Connecticut Civil Liberties Union has filed habeaus corpus suits on behalf of seven men still in solitary confinement at Danbury Prison since the work strike there in early March. Hearings to determine whether or not there is any basis for holding these men are tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 8 in front of Judge Robert Zampano at the Federal Court at New Haven (Post Office). A demonstration is planned for that day to give support to the prisoners. In addition, a Life Celebration has been scheduled for Sunday, April 30. It will be held at 3 p.m. at the gate of Danbury Federal Prison, on Route 37.

State Case Weak In Davis Trial

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

Among the first 40 of the expected 104 witnesses for the prosecution in the trial of Angela Davis, not one mentioned the name of Angela Davis. Instead, Attorney General Albert Harris had the witnesses describe in gory detail the events of the August 7, 1970, shootout at Marin Courthouse. Davis was not present at that event. She is charged with conspiracy to supply weapons.

The prosecutor spent the last week dragging every grisly piece of evidence in his possession before the jury. There were numerous photos of bodies mutilated by police bullets, lengthy examinations of witnesses describing the slow death of Jonathan Jackson, and a 19-second tape of the fusillade of shots.

Sources close to the defense charged that such evidence has no bearing on the crucial questions of foreknowledge and intent which the prosecutor must show if he is to prove his conspiracy charge against Angela Davis. These sources indicated that the prosecutor clearly hoped the blood-and-guts version of August 7 would leave an indelible impression in the minds of jurors, permanently prejudicing them against the defendant.

Escape or Scheme?

At the beginning the prosecution seemed to be trying to prove that the motive behind the shootout was not simply an escape, but an elaborate scheme to free the imprisoned Soledad Brothers. He based this on alleged comments during the escape attempt calling for the release of the Soledad Brothers. However, among three weeks of testimony, no two witnesses testified to the same version of demands being made for release of the Soledad Brothers.

The first of the prosecution's 104 witnesses was Maria Elena Graham, one of three women jurors taken hostage in a van with Judge Haley and District Attorney Gary Thomas. She said there had been a phone demand for the release of the Soledad Brothers. In the cross-examination by Defense Attorney Howard Moore, Mrs. Graham admitted she had been influenced by questions put to her by prosecutor Albert Harris. She also said that, though she hadn't *mentioned the phone demand in her statement made August 11, 1970, she "remembered" more now than when she testified before the Grand Jury.*

Conflicting Evidence

Another juror, Maureen Morris, who wasn't taken hostage testified that James McClain, one of those involved in the escape attempt, seemed almost "gentle" in the courtroom. She testified that McClain said over the phone to the sheriff's department that they "wanted to get out and if they didn't get out, they'd kill Judge Haley." She didn't remember hearing McClain say anything about freeing the Soledad Brothers. According to Mrs. Morris, McClain told the jurors, "we don't want to hurt you. We just want to get away and will turn you loose." A third witness, Doris Wittner, another juror-hostage, also did not remember any references to calls for freeing the Soledad Brothers.

San Rafael Independent-Journal photographer James Kean testified that James McClain told him, "tell them we want the Soledad Brothers released by 12 o'clock." He admitted that he never reported the alleged demand to the police.

The expected star witness for the prosecution, Asst. D.A. Gary Thomas, who was paralyzed after being wounded by a bullet which came from outside the van, never testified that he heard the Soledad Brothers mentioned.

Gory Details

Thomas claimed he watched Ruchell Magee, one of the inmates and the only survivor of the escape attempt, blow Haley's face off with a shotgun. Thomas swore that he himself grabbed a gun from the already wounded Jonathan Jackson and shot him, then in rapid succession shot the other escaping prisoners, McClain, William Christmas and Magee.

According to most witnesses, shooting began when the van "came to an abrupt stop". The "abrupt stop" was caused by San Quentin guard John *Matthews, who was standing in the road with a .30 caliber pump action rigle.*

Matthews took the stand and calmly declared that it was he, at almost point-blank range, who shot Jonathan, Mc Clain and a third inmate he was unable to identify. In sworn statements made before he testified in court on April 11, Matthews had said that the third person he shot was wearing a green plaid jacket, which would identify him as Ruchell Magee. If Matthews shot Magee within instants after he shot Jackson and McClain, Magee couldn't have pulled the trigger on the shotgun that blew Judge Haley's face off, as Thomas claimed.

Guards "Sacrificed" Hostages

In later testimony, San Quentin guard Sgt. Joseph Murphy testified that it is San Quentin guard's policy to shoot escapees--even if it means killing hostages. Asked by Branton if he wasn't saying that the San Quentin policy meant,"it is more important to prevent an escape than to save human life," Murphy paused for a long moment, then softly replied, "yes sir."

Marin County pathologist Dr. John Manwaring testified about the autopsies he did on Haley, Jackson, McClain and Christmas. The pathologist had originally testified that Haley had two wounds, either of which could have been fatal. One was the shotgun blast to the face, the other was a bullet wound in the chest. On the stand, Manwaring changed his statement to say that the shotgun would necessarily have been fatal whereas the would to the chest could have been fatal. A second autopsy ordered a year later on the request of Ruchell Magee, conducted by an Austrian specialist indicated that Haley was probably killed by the bullet wound which came from a guard outside the van, only concerned about preventing an escape.

Sirabella Jury Hung

Continued from page 2

The prosecution now must decide whether to re-try the defendants or drop the charges.

Political Overtones

Court house insiders point out that the case has political overtones. Sirabella, an unsucessful candidate for mayor in the last Democratic primary, is a thorn in the side of Democratic leader Barbieri and Mayor Guida. The prosecutor, Frank Antollino, is a Barbieri appointee and the nephew of Thomas Antollino, Barbieri's brother-in-law and close political associate.

Democratic party leaders stand to gain by keeping Sirabella in courts, even on evidence already proven flimsy. Antollino told reporters: "We'll just wait for another jury panel and, when the opportunity presents itself, we'll proceed".

On the other hand, this case has taken time and money which the state can't afford. Defense lawyers doubt that there will be any retrial. For Sirabella and Franco, the outcome is clearly a victory.

Editorial

Second Anniversary

With this issue, **Modern Times** begins its third year of publication, making our next issue the fiftieth since we began. While we pause to congratulate ourselves, we'd also like to congratulate our readers, who made it all possible. That's an old line, but we mean it in a special way. Like any newspaper we depend on our readers for moral and financial support. But at **Modern Times** we depend on them for our news, too.

As one old-time American radical, Henry David Thoreau, once put it, "to a philosopher all **news**, as it is called, is gossip, and they who edit and read it are old women over their tea." True enough, if you think of the usual news we get in the press, television and radio. Most of it is gossip about what the few individuals with political and economic power are doing to each other or to us. It's gossip because the newspaper lets us know that whatever they do isn't really any of our business.

Modern Times has run for two full years now on a very different idea. Our idea is that a newspaper can be more than a gossip sheet. Instead it can be a way for people involved in the fight to change the society we live in to communicate with each other, to share our victories and disappointments and bring us closer together.

Most **Modern Times** readers are not just spectators who are happy to sit back and read about what politicians and big businessmen are doing for each other. Most of our readers are people involved, each in his or her own way, in the struggles of people in New Haven for better lives and for an end to injustice and war.

Our slogan is "What you do is news!" The most exciting thing for the staff of **Modern Times** has been the news our readers have made this year. Since our first anniversary issue we've been able to carry news of the David and Goliath of Local 35 of the Federation of University Employees--black and white, men and women--over mighty Yale University, in the strike which began just a year ago this month. We've also been able to carry news about the rise of YNFAC from a tiny organizing group to a union large enough to contest for the right to represent all Yale clerical and technical workers.

Other good news included the success of the two year struggle to free Ericka Huggins and Bobby Seale and, as we go to press, the news that Women vs. Connecticut has won an overthrow of Connecticut's anti-abortion law.

Even when the big news hasn't been good, when our big-business dominated government has launched direct economic attacks on working people at home or rained bombs on Indochinese abroad, we have been able to carry news about local people moving into new forms of resistance.

For example, we were delighted to be able to carry stories on the VVAW, a group which proves that even as the government prolongs and escalates the war, it is training more anti-imperialists. When Nixon attacked working people with his wage freeze, we were able to report a renewed sense of solidarity in the ranks of organized labor.

Best of all is when we can report these forces moving together as with the New Haven Central Labor Council coming forward as the first in the nation to condemn the renewed bombings of the people of North Vietnam.

More good news in people moving together has been the fight of Welfare MOMS together with caseworkers of CUWE in resistance to Meskill's cutbacks and Nixon's plan for nationwide cuts. The emergence and continuing action of groups fighting to protect and improve the quality of life in New Haven's communities have made news, too, groups like the Route 34 coalition, Project Enough and tenants councils formed in public housing projects.

Modern Times reflects what people are doing to change this society. We believe that as this movement for change grows, so will **Modern Times.**

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MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need--not what is profitabl

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Tony Dominski, Joseph Fusco, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Beverly Gouaux, Harry Henderson, Liz Henderson, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Karl Lechow, Art Mazer, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Kathy Quinn, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Dick Wieland, Mary Wieland, Henry Tamarin, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff

Strike Down The War

Once again there is talk of people striking as a way of trying to end the Vietnam War. Working people as well as students, angered at Nixon's policies, are increasingly frustrated in their search for ways to change policies. Beyond rallies and letter-writing and voting, the question is: will work-stoppages --for 10 minutes or an hour or a day -- be an effective tactic to fight Nixon and the War?

If the millions of Americans who want the War to end would stop work at their jobs for even a few minutes on one day, Nixon would certainly get the message. Everyone would know how strongly the people feel. What is more, even the shortest work-stoppage hints to the politicians and the executives about what else might happen if things don't change. The working people could refuse to work -- to make or transport the materials required to keep the war going. And that, after all, would end the War but fast.

There are many problems with the idea. Nor do we advocate any rash call for actions that can't work. But the idea is worth our careful thought.

Write On

To the Editors:

On page four of the last issue of **Modern Times** there appeared a calendar of events entitled "Antiwar Actions Slated for April."

On page 11 of the same issue there appeared a calendar of events entitled "Activities for Earth Week." Some of the scheduled events, antiwar and environment, were on the same day.

On page nine there was an article entitled,""Wipe Out Pollution--Not Jobs, " by Joe Tinker. Further in the last issue there appeared articles dealing with housing, labor unions and politics. All of these areas of citizen concern have one very strong bond--they revolve aroundthe need for change. A change in the political, social and economic structure of America.

At first glance it would seem that the conflicting activities are divisive. That is, there seems to be a competition for the time and energies of the people of New Haven. Further thought, however, leads to the conclusion that this is not the case.

The people of New Haven are offered a wide choice of movements with which to ally themselves. The peace movement, the environmental movement, the labor movement, the civil rights movement and the new political movement; all serve to broaden the foundation upon which constructive change can be initiated. The above listed movements are each concerned with the symptoms of a disease--caused by an unresponsive government and a too influential corporate system. The cure is people who are united and active. The vehicles might be different but the direction is the same.

Participate where you can, whether it be against war or pollution, or racism or sexism or.....

Environmental Awareness Council of Southern Connecticut State College

To the Editors:

I was alone in the audience of *Straw Dogs* at the Mini-Cine ($1.50) last Monday night, in that show's return to the New Haven area's smaller theaters, after its opening at Cinema I in February. Perhaps that's the reason I found the movie a gripping, complex exploration of sex, violence, and masculinity where your reviewer Jim Walsh saw "technical breasts and lots of blood, but not much more." I left the theater physically exhausted and thoughtful.

In the opening scene, the audience is expected to sympathize with the helpless American scholar, his brainless wife is ogled by the townspeople, including Charley, a former lover of hers. The meek scholar meanwhile is eye-balling teen-aged Janice. Her father is Tom a brawny friendly drunk. Tom has two outstanding features: his concern that no man molest his daughter and his respectful obedience to the "major," a man who is not his physical equal. Dustin Hoffman, no man's physical equal, is in fact a coward with the sense nonetheless to pay for his own cigarettes. The sense also to recognize that Tom's warning to Henry Niles, a dim-witted child molester, might apply to anyone with eyes for Janice.

From the start, then, we have a complicated tableau. First, the hometown girl who has chosen to go braless, with the increased problem of sexual attention that brings her. Second, a meek scholar whose wife is a sex object, who himself objectifies other women. Third, the mild scholar who is powerless in the violent world of neighborhood and tavern. Fourth, the dim-witted Niles who is only a less-intelligent reflection of the scholar. Finally, a structured community where, in Tom's warning to Henry Niles' brother, "we can take care of our own if you won 't keep Henry out of trouble." The danger turns out to be more general, however.

The sex and violence which accompany the unfolding of these themes are not exaggerated for their own sake, as Mr. Walsh *suggested. In fact there is little gore. The* sex is handled carefully and sparingly. Susan George is beautiful, but in fact the shots of her tracing the run in her stocking and taking off her tee-shirt for her bath were no more evocative than Charley's removing his shirt.

Thoughts to ponder. Dustin Hoffman is consistently more concerned with the principle of the inviolability of his house than with anything real to do with his wife. (In his battle with his wife's attackers, he is unaware that she had been raped earlier, and apparently accepts it as animal fact that Niles and then Scotty throw themselves on Amy, when alone with her during the battle).

The movie is about the scholar, who barks commands at his wife, and touts his control of the situation whether he's in control or not. At no time does he have a clue what is happening to his wife or what is going on in her mind. One wonders what differenceit would have made had masturbation been an acceptable outlet for Charley's and Scotty's sexual frustrations; had Amy known karate; had Amy and the scholar been comrades in a partnership in which he learned from Amy's strengths (she had grown up in the town); in which Amy asserted more control of the situation. (In the show, when Amy pushes him, Hoffman simply escapes from a threatening confrontation over the hanging of Amy's cat in their bedroom closet into the comradeship of a hunting trip with his wife's oglers.) These speculations are irrelevant, however, because the movie is about Hoffman's failure to keep in touch with another person.

The movie ends with the scholar and the dim-wit driving along the road, neither one knowing "their way home." Amy is left sitting on the stairs amid the dead bodies and wreckage remaining from Hoffman's defense of his house, a battle which had never been Amy's. Hoffman has has successfully avoided the greater conflict presented by another human being.

Sincerely,
Morty Miller

Special Supplement

A RICH MAN'S WAR

A WORKING PEOPLE'S *FIGHT*

A COMMON FIGHT AGAI

Construction workers on site of new Court House on Whitney Avenue cheer anti-war marchers, April 21.(M-T photo by Dave Vine).

student anti-war movement takes a new turn

We are not here to reavow student opposition to the war in a symbolic display which would show us to be pure and ethical, but leave us practically impotent.

We must systematically commit all our energies between now and May 4th toward bringing the student movement against the war together with organized labor in promoting their just demands not only regarding America's policy abroad, but also its economic policy at home.

-----The New England Colleges' Emergency Conference

Students march on the army an
rally on New Haven Green, Apri

The working people of t United States have suffered most because of the Vietnam War. r. Nixon's war policies have resulted in a freeze of our wages while the same time prices for food, rents, utilities and other necessities sky rocketing...which further erode the pay checks of our workin nen and women.

—Statement by the Collective Bargaining Comm of Local 35 calling for a five-minute work s on April 21.

The recent re-escalation of the w policy", t further extends the price the workin in terms of inflation, unemployment and lost li the past w months show what workers have al higher prices don't cause inflation. The real cau production and the greed of large corporations.

We encourage all union member moratorium, whether it be in the form of work wearing black armbands....

-----The Greater New Haven Tra

MAY 4th PROPOSAL

Alan McKnight sings anti-war songs at rally on New Haven Green April 21. (M-T photo by Dave Vine)

We must pay attention to these moves of organized labor, for now is the time to act in a serious way.

Therefore, we propose the following agenda for the national student strike:

1)That our collective action take as its purpose the promotion of a **General Strike** of this country's working population May 4th, 1972, to be supported by complete and national student strikes on that day.

2)That the direct relation between this country's foreign policy and internal economic crisis be recognized and that the May 4th worker-student General Strike bring forward the following demands:

a)The total end to U.S.involvement in Asia and specifically theU.S. support for the Thieu regime in Saigon.

b)The end to the current wage freeze's burdening of American workers.

c)and finally the demand that all employers immediately cease all layoffs of workers.

-----The New England Colleges' Emergency Conference

NATIONAL UNIONS AG

The American Federation of State, Cou
Retail, Wholesale, and Department Sto
United Electrical Workers (Independent
Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's U
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butche
United Auto Workers (ALA)
Amalgamated Clothing Workers (AFL-C
District 65, Distributive Workers of Am
International Chemical Workers' Union
American Federation of Musicians (AF
National Alliance of Postal and Federal

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AGAINST THE WAR

Students march on the army and marine recruiting offices after *rally on* New Haven Green, April 21 (M-T photo by Dave Vine).

labor reaffirms its opposition to an escalating war

Whereas, it is the working people of America who bear the heaviest burden of this war, in dead or wounded sons, in inflation and higher taxes, and in an unstable and unhealthy economy. The Greater New Haven Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO condemns and deplores President Nixon's reescalation of the war in Vietnam, and especially his resumption of all-out bombing in North Vietnam.

---Greater New Haven Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

"If Nixon likes the war he should go over and fight it himself!"

-----Eileen Toles, Concerned Hospital Workers

Wet students with spirits undampened march in New York, April 22(M-T photo by Dave Vine).

The working people of the United States have suffered most because of the Vietnam War....Mr. Nixon's war policies have resulted in a freeze of our wages while at the same time prices for food, rents, utilities and other necessities are skyrocketing...which further erode the pay checks of our working men and women.

----Statement by the Collective Bargaining Committee of Local 35 calling for a five-minute work stoppage on April 21.

The recent re-escalation of the war gives the lie to Nixon's "peace policy". It further extends the price the working people of the United States pay in terms of inflation, unemployment and lost lives....The drastic price increases over the past few months show what workers have always known---that wage increases and higher prices don't cause inflation. The real cause of inflation is wasteful war production and the greed of large corporations.

We encourage all union members to participate in the May 4th moratorium, whether it be in the form of work stoppages, plant gate meetings, or wearing black armbands....

----The Greater New Haven Trade Unionists for Action and Democracy

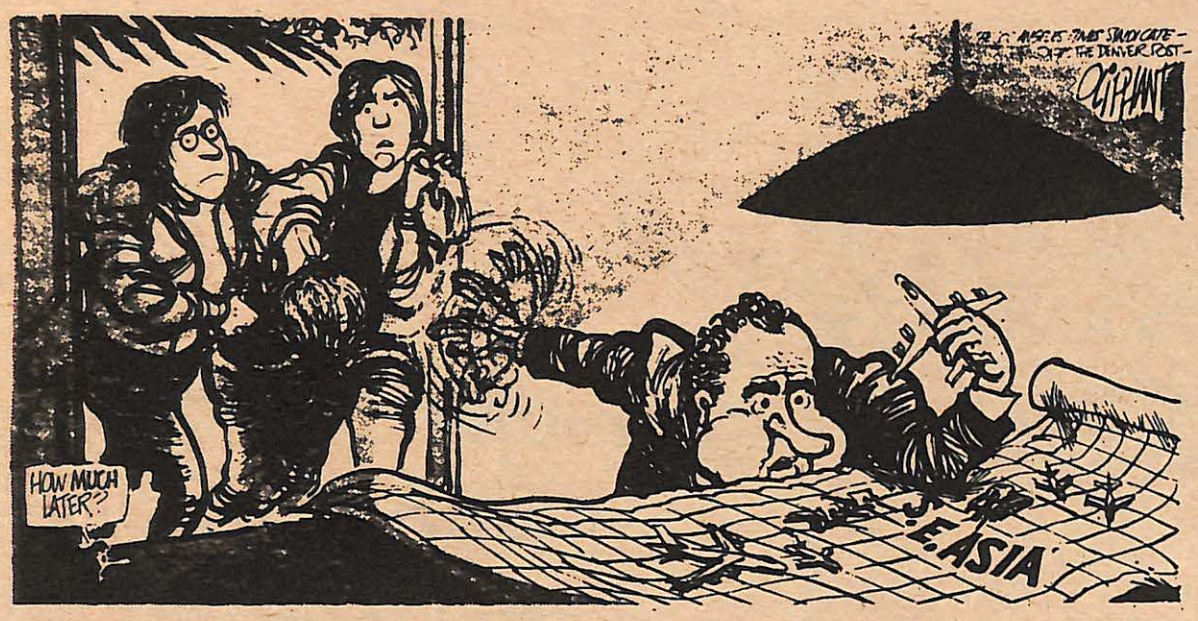
NATIONAL UNIONS AGAINST THE WAR

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO)
Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union (AFL-CIO)
United Electrical Workers (Independent)
Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (Independent)
International Brotherhood of Teamsters (ALA)
Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen (AFL-CIO)
United Auto Workers (ALA)
Amalgamated Clothing Workers (AFL-CIO)
District 65, Distributive Workers of America (ALA)
International Chemical Workers' Union (AFL-CIO)
American Federation of Musicians (AFL-CIO)
National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees (Independent)

These demonstrators---April 22 in New York---are not fair weather soldiers (M-T photo by Dave Vine)

GETTING INTO IT

'Later! Later!'



SCHOOLS

Almost all New Haven area schools are planning actions leading up to and on May 4th. For more specific information, call the following numbers:

Quinnipiac College: call Strike Headquarters at 288-5251, ext. 477.

Southern Connecticut State College: call Dave Ward, 387-1191.

University of New Haven: call Student Government Headquarters, 932-1310

Albertus Magnus: call Kathy Lovett at 787-4015.

Yale University: call the May 4th Action Committee, 436-1480, ext. 7.

CALENDAR

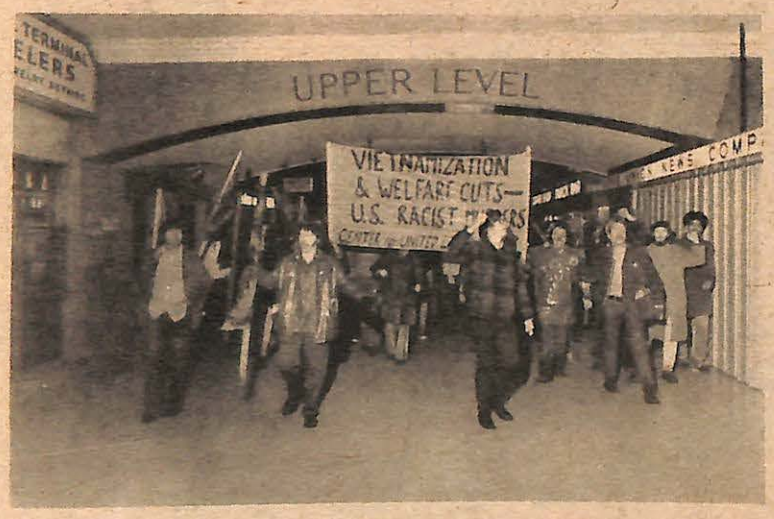
Due to our early deadline, we have very little information concerning specific actions leading up to May 4th and on May 4th itself. Look for announcements in local newspapers and on leaflets, or contact any of the organizations listed on this page. We do know of the following activities:

April 29—9:30 AM: assembly for march at the Fairhaven Middle School (Grand Avenue past Blatchley Ave.). The march, beginning at 10AM, will pass through many areas of the city, ending up with a short rally at 11:30 in Wooster Square. For more information contact the Connecticut Peace Action Coalition at 777-4265.

10:00 AM: Meeting of Trade Unionists for Action and Democracy (TUAD) at 10 Charles St., in the SNET Company Community Room at the corner of Charles and Dixwell Ave. All rank and file or union officers are invited. For further information, call Bill Morico at 787-5046.

1:30 PM: Showing of the *Winter Soldier* film, a documentary about war crimes in Vietnam as told by returned Vietnam veterans; at the York Square Cinema. All proceeds go to the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

May 4—Many actions, rallies, etc. will undoubtedly be planned for the Greater New Haven area; there will also be a large rally in Hartford in Bushnell Park. In addition, the New Haven Committee for Petitioning Against the War will have petitions to be circulated in the community ready and waiting at the University of New Haven Student Center on May 4th. Cars are also needed by the Committee; call Jim Pembroke at 933-9453.



Angry students and unemployed youths continue April 22 march through New York's Grand Central Terminal (M-T photo by Dave Vine).

ORGANIZATIONS

The May 4th Action Committee (M4AC) is an organization working to promote coordinated worker-student actions on May 4th, demanding an end to U.S. involvement in Asia, an end to the current wage freeze, and an end to layoffs. **M4AC** has been contacting New Haven labor leaders and students from all area schools. Contact 436-1480, ext. 7.

The American Independent Movement (AIM) puts out *Modern Times*. **AIM** is a socialist organization working in New Haven with community groups and the union movement for basic political, economic and social changes which will make America a country run by and for the majority of working people instead of a tiny minority of the very rich. **AIM** has been working against the war in Vietnam since 1966 when Bob Cook ran as an independent *candidate for Congress. For more information or speakers call 562-2510.*

Young Unionists Action League (YUAL), a committee of the Connecticut State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, is founded on principles that include the mutual support of all trade unionists regardless of sex, age, or nationality, and the active participation of unionists in educational, lawmaking, political and community work YUAL has launched a variety of educational programs: union information, films and discussions. Contact Lynn Zawacki at 288-3591, 9 Washington Ave., Hamden.

Trade Unionists for Action and Democracy (TUAD) is an organization of concerned rank-and-file workers and trade unionists working for union democracy and a variety of reforms within organized labor itself. It is also attempting to involve American labor as a progressive force for social change in the U.S. Contact Bill Morico at 787-5046 or write him at 18 Elm St. in New Haven.

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) is a group of GIs returned from Vietnam who are working for an end to all American involvement in Asia. They organize anti-war teach-ins, slide shows, films (*The Winter Soldier*), marches and nonviolent actions. Contact 777-3051, 53 Wall St., New Haven.

The New Haven Air War Collective (NHAWC) is focusing attention upon the air war in Indochina through actions and demonstrations as well as through the distribution of information. **NHAWC** sponsored the April 17 demonstration at the Sikorsky plant in Stratford, Conn.; future actions will be directed at defense plants throughout Connecticut with special emphasis also placed upon the economic effects of defense spending in the state, such as unemployment, job instability and inflation. For more information, call 776-7453.

The New Haven Coalition for Peace and Justice (NHCPJ) is a group of citizens and organizations aimed at redirecting our resources and energy from war to human needs. It has recently helped organize for the Children's March for Survival in Washington, the Harrisburg Action to support political prisoners and has sponsored local peace demonstrations. Contact Clarice Pollack at 777-8013.

The Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL) is a national, multi-racial youth organization uniting working youth, students and unemployed youth in a mass movement against war racism and repression. The **YWLL** works with the Committee to free Angela Davis, many anti-war organizations and community programs. Contact Esther Simon at 387-8772 or 865-5535.

brass tacks

How Law Hurts Wage Earners

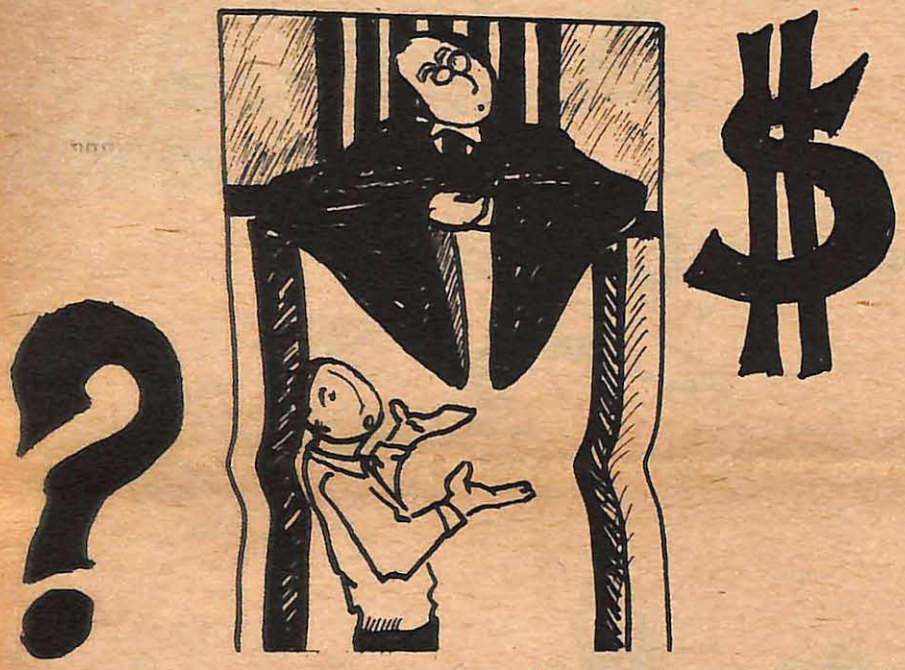
by Joe Tinker

Nowadays the newspapers call May 1st Law Day and editorial writers grind out their annual column. But May 1st has a different meaning for many people throughout the world. In fact, this is the reason for the new name which came into being in the early 1950s when the government and the American Bar Association got their pointy heads together to combat radical ideas.

They obviously missed the irony in the name -- Law Day. Because, if there is anyone who gets short-changed under the law it is working people.

Lop-Sided Laws

Everyone knows about the income tax. The rich pay very little or nothing at all, while the wage earner has no choice. It is deducted from every pay check.



Evasion and violation of the law by powerful interests have become a part of the American Way of Life. Tax evasion, anti-trust violations, price fixing, violations of pollution laws, factory safety regulations and labor laws are everyday events. And in the final analysis the working person bears the main brunt of all these acts.

As if none of this were taking place, we are constantly reminded that we have 'Equal Justice Under the Law.' Chiselled in stone over courthouse doors. From a practical point of view it doesn't work that way at all.

The Way It Works

We all have contact with various arms of the law during our lives. Owning a car or property, having a teenage child, being a teenager, or colored or having an extra drink can at some point bring the law down. Then we learn that the law works in devious ways.

Let's look at a couple of examples that can happen to anyone and probably have.

A. You are driving your car and a cop pulls you over for a moving violation, and writes you a ticket which can cost from $20 to $35. If you feel the ticket is not justified you have to go to court to fight it. When you plead 'not guilty' you have to hang around till the end of the day. There goes a day's wages. If you lose, you pay the fine and lose a day's wages. You can't win for losing.

B. You buy an appliance and discover it doesn't work properly and you can't get satisfaction from the dealer. Small claims court is supposed to deal with such matters and you decide to use it. You go to court and wait and when your case finally comes up, the company you are suing asks for a transfer to the Circuit Court for some legalistic reason, or for a postponement. The judge has to say "Yes" to either request. You have now lost one day's wages and gotten nowhere. To pursue the case means returning to court another day hoping that this time you will get some action. So you ask yourself – 'Is it worth another day's pay, or is it better to forget the whole thing?' Even if you win, was it worth two day's (or more) wages?

A Stacked Deck

It adds up to a simple conclusion. The person who is paid on a daily or hourly basis suffers a double penalty when he or she seeks justice in the courts -- lost wages plus whatever else is involved.

Compensation cases related to job injuries or deaths are a disgrace. Most of these cases take from 3 to 5 years to get to court. Witnesses might not be available, memories aren't so sharp, and workers or their families end up with a pittance after legal fees, etc. are lopped off.

If the Drunk Driving bill had passed the State Legislature a lot of working people would have been losing wages and maybe their jobs. Sharp lawyers would have taken care of the country club drunks.

The Jury Mess

Another basic tenet of our judicial system is that everyone is entitled to a jury of his peers. But the present setup of the jury system makes it virtually impossible for working people to serve on juries. The fees paid for jury duty are so low that wage earners ask to be excused for 'economic reasons.' They just can't afford to do their 'civic duty.' The working person is deprived of his or her full legal rights in two ways. On the one hand a jury of his peers is impossible, and on the other hand, serving on a jury is economically prohibitive.

Our legal system has to be changed so that the ordinary person can avail himself of the services of the courts without unnecessary hardships and simplified so that a lawyer's services are not always required.

The following ideas might help make justice a little more equal.

1. That traffic and small claims court hold sessions in the evenings and on Saturdays.
2. That special Consumer Commissions be set up to handle consumer problems.
3. That employers pay the difference between the jury fees and an employ-does jury duty.

Readers of this column may have had different experiences with the law and arrived at other conclusions which they would like to express here.

Overtime- Is It a Bonus Or Heartbreaking Hoax?

by Mike Holodnak

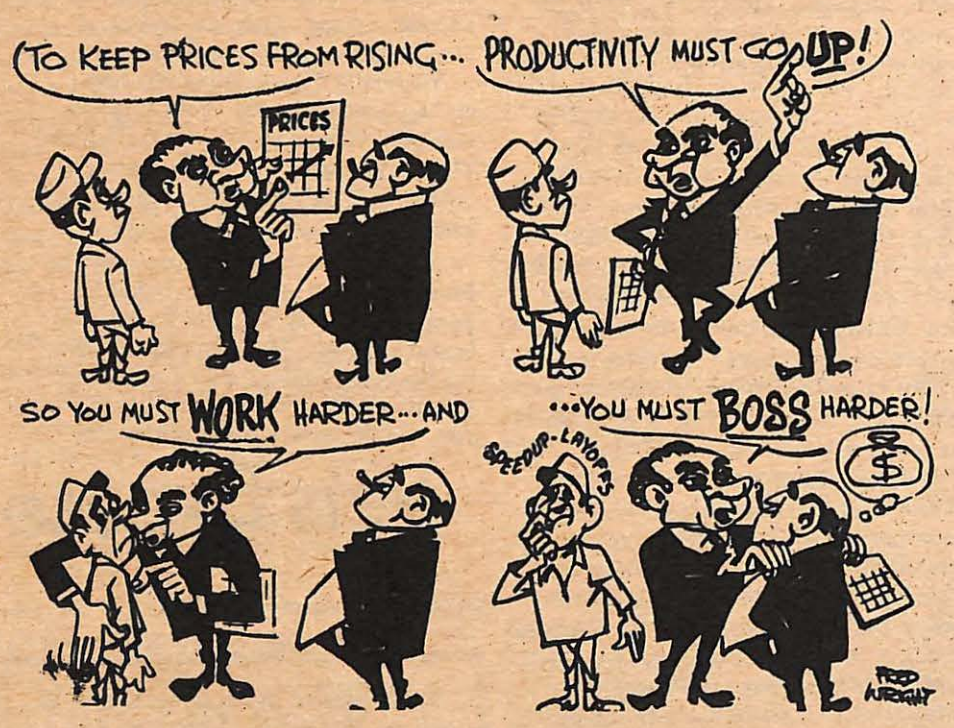
"We mean to make things over
We're tired of toil for nought
But bare enough to live on; never
An hour for thought.
We want to feel the sunshine; we
Want to smell the flowers
We're sure that God has willed it
And we mean to have eight hours.
We're summoning our forces from
Shipyard, shop and mill
Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest
Eight hours for what we will!"

These are the words that hard-pressed workers sang way back in 1885 during their battle for an eight hour day. Only after a long and very bloody struggle did unions finally win the shorter work week.

Yet today the average worker is caught in the belief that somehow he will "get ahead" if he works more than eight hours a day. Today the word "overtime" has become a household word.

Not only have workers become dependent on overtime, but even those who see the folly in it, are forced to work it due to compulsory overtime clauses in their labor agreements.

In this highly automated day and age where products are being produced faster than they can be consumed—even with obsolescence deliberately engineered into every product—where a permanently high rate of unemployment is becoming a way of life, where the quality of life is deteriorating for everyone, many workers are putting in 60-70 hours per week just as they did way back in the pre-union sweat shop days.



Bosses Benefit

The only beneficiaries of overtime are the bosses who love the profits they get from it through increased production and through savings on pensions that are never paid workers whose life span is considerably shortened.

Also workers tend to be satisfied with lower wages if they know they will be able to make a living wage through overtime.

And the bosses love the dissension that is caused among the workers fighting among themselves for every overtime hour they can get, especially in the non-union shops.

And in the union shops stewards are kept busy keeping overtime books and getting bogged down in numerous overtime problems that could better be spent fighting the company's many and varied other injustices.

Then, of course, because of overtime, many plant accidents occur when very exhausted workers grow less alert to their surrounding dangers.

Shorter Work Week

All these reasons, and many more too numerous to mention, are enough justification for unions to demand, not only an end to overtime, but also a shorter work week with no reduction in pay so that those who are unemployed could be given a chance to also earn a living.

The growth of modern technology should not be used to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. It should be used *to provide abundance, full employment, and adequate wages so that every human* being can live a full and decent life.

We workers are tired of the filthy rich raping the land and swindling the poor, then having the gall to say that all the necessities of life, such as schools, health programs, decent housing, mass transit, and a clean environment cannot be obtained because of LACK OF FUNDS.

Overtime is only one facet of so-called company prerogatives that unions should begin to challenge, Unions must look at overtime for what it really is. Overtime is not only a hoax, overtime is reactionary.

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VietnamVets Step Up Anti-War Activities

by Cathy Benz
Vietnam Veterans Against the War

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War are now playing a leading role in peace protests locally and around the country.

VVAW activities last week included:

-Participation in Saturday's rally on the Green as part of the sponsoring Air War Collective. In the morning the veterans presented a Winter Soldier panel, giving testimony on war atrocities in southeast Asia.

-Putting out a press release in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Military Buildup. This committee, formed two weeks ago to research American military activity, has documented that 39 ships including guided missile cruisers, destroyers, five aircraft carriers, 14 aircraft squadrons and 62,000 troops (including marine combat battalions) are en route to a "destination unknown in a tropical climate."

-Protest of air war escalation by vets who scaled the fence at Fort Nathan Hale, a Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center The Vets woke the sleeping sentry, and informed him the reserve station was being occupied. Police arrested 10 on a charge of criminal trespass in the first degree.

-Joining with demonstrators Monday at Sikorsky Aircraft factory. Veterans participated in blocking the gate to Sikorsky Aircraft factory. Veterans participated in blocking the gate to Sikorsky and refused to leave voluntarily before Sikorsky management submitted to a citizens arrest by the crowd. Several veterans were arrested.

Washington "Invaded"

-VVAW chapters from across the country converging on Washington during the week to lobby against the war escalation. Connecticut VVAW members attempted to get an appointment with General Westmoreland, who, after promising such appointments, again refused to engage them in a dialogue. Connecticut veterans did see several congressmen, including Robert Steele (R) and Stewart McKinney (R) from their own state. None of the congressmen contacted by VVAW members would endorse legislation to halt the bombing at once and initiate an immediate withdrawal of all American troops.

-Other rallies and demonstrations around the country. Air Force recruiting stations were occupied by VVAW members in Austin and San Francisco. In San Francisco the vets were joined by 2,000 sympathizers who stood in the street outside the recruiting station and attempted to block police from entering the office to make arrests. VVAW also plans to take part in the current student strikes, and a VVAW contingent, as well as active duty GI's, were at the head of the New York City march to end the war on Saturday, April 22. VVAW members in every state plan to continue speaking, marching, rallying, and protesting with every available means until the bombing is halted and all American troops have been withdrawn from southeast Asia.

Vietnam Victories Put Nixon In A Trap

by Peter J. O'Connell
Modern Times Staff

*In an editorial in its January 15 issue, **Modern Times** predicted victory for the Vietnamese national liberation movement and described Richard Nixon as a man in a trap.*

NEWS ANALYSIS

The latest news from Vietnam shows that the liberation forces have advanced further than ever and that the trap is closing even tighter around Nixon.

The First Trap

One part of the trap involves the US domestic political situation. March, *April and May are the months of the most important primaries and the largest peace demonstrations. Because* Nixon has no real opposition in the Republication Party, the nation's attention is focused on the array of Democratic contenders. All of the leading Democrats (including even George Wallace) have made opposition to Nixon's Vietnam politicies and demands for more rapid withdrawal of US troops parts of their campaigns. George McGovern, the strongest critic of the war has, in fact, emerged out of the primaries as the front-runner. The Democratic candidates in their positions are merely responding to the mood of the public. Polls show that a majority of the American people favor immediate withdrawal from Vietnam. Yet now, because of the offensives, Nixon faces the need for more US involvement -- certainly more bombing and, perhaps, even more troops--to hold up his Saigon puppets. The more he has to prop them up, the more political opposition to the war will increase, either in the streets or in the ballot boxes.

The Second Trap

Another part of the trap concerns the international situation. Nixon suspended the Paris Peace Talks; then he went to China; and in May he's going to the Soviet Union. He hopes that these moves will split the world revolutionary movement, weaken support for Vietnam, bring in some trade to boost the ailing US economy and hurt the Democrats by improving his own image as a "peacemaker" with a public weary of war. His junketing is not likely to succeed.

The Soviet Union has made its support of Vietnam obvious through the military aid it has supplied, aid that has been indispensable to the success of the liberation offensives and it is highly unlikely to weaken that support as the Vietnamese near victory. Nixon will be proven wrong on this point just as he was proven wrong during the years when he maintained that the Vietnamese revolution was not only Soviet-supplied but also Soviet-controlled. Nixon seems incapable of grasping the simple fact that the Vietnamese revolutionaries are both independent and aided by the Soviet Union.

The Third Trap

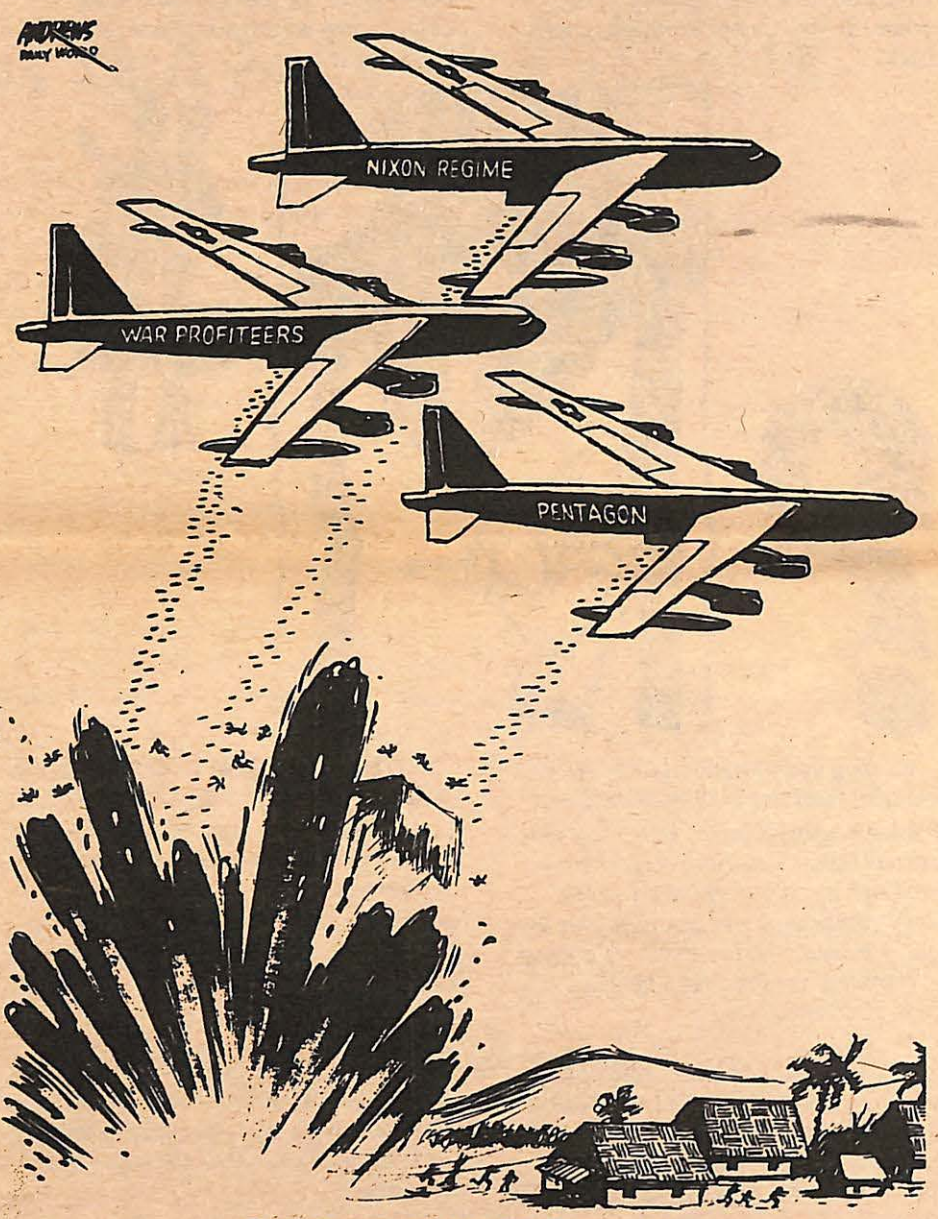
The central part of the trap, of course, has always been the inability of US policy-makers to understand the Vietnamese situation itself. The US has tried to claim that one country (North Vietnam) has invaded another country (South Vietnam.) But all Vietnamese think of themselves as being part of one country.

Nixon has claimed that the revolutionaries in the southern part of Vietnam are a small minority of terrorists not supported by the people. The scope of the present offensives shows once again the falsity of this position. The offensives could not have been launched with such success unless they had widespread popular support.

Nixon has claimed that "Vietnamization," reliance on the Saigon forces and US airpower, can defeat the revolution. The offensives show that real "Vietnamization," support of the revolutionary forces by the Vietnamese people, can defeat Washington and Saigon. As for airpower, the US bombings are certainly horrors on a major scale, but the combination of Soviet-supplied radar, anti-aircraft guns, and planes and Vietnamese courage, ingenuity, and perseverance has so far survived them.

Why can't Nixon simply consider getting completely out of the trap by immediately withdrawing from Vietnam? That way he could certainly improve relations with the Soviet Union and China and boost his own political image.

He won't consider it because, just as President Thieu in Saigon is Nixon's puppet, President Nixon in Washington is also a puppet. He's a puppet of the big business interests, who profit from war and domination of foreign countries. As the bombs fall, it is now time for the American people to put these profiteering puppeteers themselves in a trap, along with their puppets Thieu and Nixon.



THIS IS HOW VIETNAMIZATION WORKS.

Vets Expose Troop Buildup Details

by David Adams
Modern Times Staff

Long before most Americans heard on television about the renewed bombings of North Vietnam, the Vietnam Veterans Against the War knew that the air war offensive was in progress. The Viet vets obtained extensive information through their own military intelligence system which maintains contacts with dozens, maybe hundreds of American army, navy and air force bases around the country and overseas.

The Viet Vets handed out a lengthy press statement at the April 15 rally on the green in New Haven, hours before word of the bombings reached television.

They detailed movements of American planes, aircraft carriers and destroyers from bases in the States towards bases in Southeast Asia. And they detailed alerts on American ground forces for possible shipment to Vietnam. This last item has not yet been covered by the establishment press.

Here are some of the typical items released by the Vets:

–Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts. Sunday, April 9. Ten B-52 crews and 11 KC-135 crews were sent to Guam, Okinawa and Thailand Thursday along with 310 support personnel. Another 100 airmen, mostly plane crews, were being processed for shipment Saturday night and Sunday morning, April 8 and 9.

–Subic Bay, Phillipines, April 10. Eight days ago, the attack carrier "Kitty Hawk" cut short her normal port call in such haste that 300 men were left behind...urgent orders to return to station off the Vietnam Coast.

–Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The 82nd Airborne division (paratroopers) has been reported to be on "maneuvers" since April 9. At that time a call went out to all personnel in this unit to return to base. It has been indicated that the men in this unit expect to transfer to Southeast Asia.

–Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Units of the 2nd Marine Division are on alert. These units compose ground combat troops. The brass claim that alert is normal. But normal alerts occur approximately every six months, and members of these units participated in one only the week before.

Mellon Center Tax : A Good Start

by Dave Dickson
Modern Times Staff

On the night of April 19, the Aldermanic Legislation Committee held a public hearing on a zoning change to permit the construction of Yale's new Mellon Center for British Art and British Studies. Representatives of Yale and the City spoke in favor of the project and there was no opposition. The routine and uneventful hearing and the apparent unanimity of Yale and the City, however, obscure both the dramatic events leading up to the hearing and the unresolved question of the future financial relationship between New Haven and Yale.

This portrait of "Charles Penruddocke" by Joseph Highmare (1692-1780) will be among those paintings to be exhibited in the new Mellon Art Center for British Art and *British Studies. It's from the* collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon.

The Mellon Center was formally announced in late February at a news conference in the Mayor's Office attended by high officials of Yale and the Guida administration. The major news of that conference was that Yale had agreed to pay taxes on the land and 80% of the building, at an assessed value of $800,000. This is an increase in assessed value for the property of $286,000. The building will cost $9.2 million and the ground floor will be commercial shops rented at a price which Yale hopes will allow them to "break even".

The project marks many departures for both the City and the University:

It is the first building on which Yale has agreed to pay taxes.

It is the first time that Yale has built commercial spaces and Yale hopes that this will help to break down the physical isolation of the Yale campus from the city.

It seems to be the first time that the City has succeeded in using *its own laws to control Yale's* development and also the first time that Yale has modified its building plans to accommodate outside pressures.

However, the project and the agreements are only one move in a larger struggle between the City and Yale. The university owns some $100 million worth of property in New Haven, about one fourth of the total in the whole city. Another one-fourth is owned by other tax-exempt institutions, mainly churhces. Back in 1970, Mayor Guida ordered 10 Yale properties taken off the tax-exempt list and put on the Grand List. Many of these properties are semi-commercial such as the Golf Course, the Kline Biology Tower Restaurant, and the Yale Press. The total assessed valuation of the 10 properties is over $3 million. Yale immediately appealed this move in court and the case has yet to be decided.

On March 17, Mayor Guida met with Yale Corporation representative Cyrus Vance, former Secretary of the Army and Paris Peace Talks negotiator, in the first of what will probably be many meetings to work out a policy for Yale's overall financial relationship to New Haven. The results of these negotiations should have a profound effect on Yale and the City of New Haven's taxpayers.

Budget Cut Hits Disabled

by Linda Hennessy

Meskill is demonstrating his feelings for the handicapped by literally crippling the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

He has done a very effective job by hiring only inexperienced trainees whom it takes two years to train, limiting the number of supervisory people responsible for training the supervisors and curtailing services like supportive therapy which are supposed to be available to the clients.

The department of Vocational Rehabilitation is responsible for the retraining of: people just out of mental hospitals, the physically handicapped, people returning from prison and former drug abusers.

Clients Hit Hard

The effect of Meskill's cuts has just begun to hit the client. As one employee in Vocational Rehabilitation put it "They do not know it yet, but they are getting screwed." A client whose course in therapy was interrupted at a critical point was told that the department could not continue to pay for her therapy or on the job training until the beginning of next July. She described her feelings in these words, "I feel as if the rug has been pulled out from under me."

The department of Vocational Rehabilitation has ten offices throughout the state. They receive referrals from private doctors, mental hospitals, parole officers, social workers and drug agencies. The handicapped person who is referred to as a client is supposed to be assigned a counselor who is responsible for guiding the client into the job program best suited to his or her capabilities.

Added Services

In addition to job training, the agency is also supposed to provide for supportive psychological services. These services are essential to a mentally handicapped person returning to society. The relationship between the client and the counselor *is a key factor in the client's successful rehabilitation.*

In conclusion, I would like to say that any politician who deliberately seeks to balance the budget by curtailing services to the handicapped deserves to be impeached.

Cable-Something New on TV ?

by Elliot Porter
Educational Video Access Corp.

Yale recently (April 11-12) hosted a two day conference called "Cable TV – A Communications Revolution?" It is bewildering that the word "revolution" ever made it into the title. The two day affair was a tired run through of the profound effects cable TV could have on cultural exchange and education and most importantly on the nature of participatory government.

Cable TV is a method of piping many different TV channels into any ordinary TV set. It would allow the home viewer a much wider variety of local and network programs. But the big question is, who would produce these programs.

With the technology and economics of cable as the theme, the first night was filled with a crew of cable spokesmen rather than practitioners. The night was boring. Most of the speakers read from prepared speeches. Only one called for open discussions.

The second night was pretty much the same. The theme was "Community and Cable TV." One speaker emphasized the needs for standards which seemed to make cable programming strictly a job for professionals. Part of the excitement about the technology is that this is not true. Quality programming for communities can be achieved by the communities themselves.

An Interesting Tidbit

Possibly the most exciting speaker was Matthew T. Jenetopolus, President of New Haven's cable TV franchise. A critical aspect of this franchise is that Arthur Barbieri, town Democrat chairman, Robert Giaimo, Congressional representative, and members of Mr. Giaimo's law firm are closely involved in it and also in the Branford cable franchise.

A discussion on community access to cable TV followed his speech. However, just as discussion between Jenetopolus, and audience members on issues of community use began to develop, the moderator closed down the event, explaining that it was late in the evening. It seemed obvious that, without interference, the discussion would have continued on but that open dialogue was not to be allowed for very long.

Up to now, cable and its community uses has been mostly an invisible issue publicly in conventional media coverage. It is imperative that hard community questioning begin. Who will be able to use the cable?

Could, for example, people in the Hill, do their own programming, for their own cable system? Who will make available the hardware for local programming? And so on. There are as many questions as there are people to use the cable.

Videotape-Ed Tool

The EDUCATIONAL VIDEO ACCESS CORPORATION will hold a mid-May conference on the potential of portable videotape as a tool for educational and community communication. The conference is open to anyone interested in exploring a new vehicle for communication.

The conference will offer: a) information on how other communities use videotape; b) first hand experience with video equipment; and c) a forum to discuss and help plan a New Haven area Video Access Center, designed to make equipment and information available to the general community.

The EDUCATIONAL VIDEO ACCESS CORPORATION is a non-profit organization recently established in the New Haven area to explore the potential of videotape and to provide videotape services to education and community organizations. For more information about the conference, or about EVAC, call Elliot Porter, 562-7338 or Norman Cohn, 453-6165.

Gas Co. Local Wins

Continued from page 1.

50 of Allied and Technical Workers stated that the new two year contract fulfills the basic goals of the strikers which was to achieve equal salaries for the New Haven members compared to those of Bridgeport employees.

The bulk of the wage increase, up to 9%, will be achieved in the first nine months of the new contract. This made the two-year period acceptable to employees. The union was originally trying for a one-year contract because of the uncertain future of the economy. The new pact provides for the reopening of talks between the union and management during the second year of the contract for adjustment for the rise in the cost of living.

Speaking of the new contract, a woman employee at the Crown St. office said that "up here at the office we'll be getting a total increase of about 7% if you include the additions to the fringe benefits. I think we got a good contract out of them." These benefits include the adoption of the CMS **"Century Plan"** and an increase in the pension plan from $7 to $8.50 per month.

A new program instituted in this contract is a labor grade system that includes the personnel at the Chapel Street plant. Previously only the employees at the Crown Street office had been part of the labor grade system.

Yale Local 35 In Negotiations

Continued from page 1.

These include:

--a joint study committee on employment of Yale students

--Yale students work a maximum of 100,000 hours in the fiscal year

--Students may fill jobs only in labor grades 1 thru 5, with given exceptions

--Students may schedule no more than 20 hours of work a week.

--The university must provide the union with students' work schedules, if requested.

--The university must provide a quarterly report of students' work schedules on request.

The letter concluded with the assurance that if the issue of Yale students' employment was not settled by May 1, Local 35 would have the right to call a strike during the next 30 days.

ON FILM

The Unamerican Dream

Modern Times Staff

By this time probably half of the city of New Haven and suburbs has seen **The Godfather**. It's a movie that's really worth going to, although you could make a case that no film is worth such a high admissions price. But after all, that's the American way -- make as much money as possible and soak a piece of art dry.

The movie is based on a giant and exciting book by Mario Puzo. The book is really much better than the film. In the book one understands much more clearly where the Godfather came from. In the movie, you get the impression that Don Vito Corleone, the Godfather, was born rich and powerful, much like Rockefeller, Getty, Hunt, or the other fat cats in our country. But Vito Corleone was a poor Italian immigrant living in New York's Little Italy.

He made it to the top through hard work, blood, guts, and organization. I can hear someone saying right now, "But that's the American way! You work hard and you get what you deserve!" Yes,but. Let's look at the difference. Corleone always kept himself apart from the American way. He was always outside the mainstream. He and his people lived away from American society and in fact, they never trusted it. American society was not for them and they must build something else. And let's look at what Corleone built. It was an organization based on family ties, courage, violence, mutual respect and love. "Love," you say, "how in hell can you call that love?" In Puzo's book you really see love in operation. The favors that the Don does for people, his feelings for his sons and the rest of his family and most importantly, his style. Vito constantly lays his hands upon his friends and relatives and always talks to people with the highest respect. He never looks down at anybody nor plays games with them. And he expects the same treatment towards him. I must say that Marlon Brando does an excellent job in capturing this style, but the movie is more interested in other aspects of the Don than his style.

This leads me to what I find most upsetting about the movie. It concentrates too heavily on the blood and guts and gives a secondary position to the love and respect in the organization as well as an historical understanding of the conditions that "created" the Godfather. Now, I'm not saying that violence in movies is bad because it leads to violences, etc., etc., I'm not sure about that. But, what I am saying is why are we so concerned about it and why did this particular movie neglect all the more human qualities of Puzo's book? When I read the Godfather I was deeply saddened by his death -when I saw the movie, I only felt that it was too bad.

If you are one of the few who have not seen ***The Godfather****, you really should. But,* you should also read the book first. It will help to fill in the important gaps that the movie neglects. And while you're at it, pick up another of Puzo's books, **The Fortunate Pilgrim**. It is also about Italian-Americans, but it's concerned with a powerful Italian mother who struggles for her own and her family's survival in America. Lots of love, lots of tragedy -- and a minimum of blood-letting.

Panthers Test for Sickle Cells

Elise Browne gives a Sickle Cell Anemia test to little John Browne at the John Huggins Health Research Center on Dixwell Avenue. Also in the photo, Neal Ward and his son Victor. Luckily both John and Victor's tests were negative. About one percent of all Black Americans have this disease and about ten percent possess the Sickle Cell Trait. The John Huggins Health Research Center has been urging the community to come down and take this simple test.

Frankfurters Are Padded

by Frank Furter
from the National Welfare Rights Organization Newsletter

Frankfurters are now only 60 per cent as nutritious as they were in the Depression, according to a Consumers Union study in the February issue of **Consumer Reports.**

Many of today's franks are padded with excess fat and water and contaminated by bacteria, the non-profit testing organization concluded.

In 1937, wieners averaged 19.6 per cent protein and contained only 19 per cent fat. Today the average protein content has declined to 11.7 per cent while the average fat level has risen to 28 per cent.

The consumer study also showed that more than 40 per cent of the frankfurter samples it analyzed had begun to spoil. Insect and rodent contamination turned up in almost 19 per cent of the samples analyzed for wholesomeness.

The high bacteria counts found in many franks are a clear indication of poor industrial sanitation, says CU. Corrective measures such as tighter inspection and strict temperature controls during distribution, as well as clear expiration dates on retail packages, are all in order.

CU says its lab tests also indicate that water beyond the 10 per cent limit permitted by U.S. Department of Agriculture standards has been added to four of the 32 brands examined. CU believes they should have been labeled "imitation" frankfurters.

In summarizing its findings of high fat and water levels and low-protein scores, the study concluded "the frankfurter doesn't *pull its own weight.*"

Consumers Union recommends that a 20 per cent protein content - as in the lean hot dog of the Depression - be required today. Noting that even all-meat and all-beef franks may have as much as 15 per cent (by weight) other ingredients than meat, CU says such franks should be limited to 5 per cent non-meat ingredients such as salt, spices, and flavoring and curing additives.

Where To Buy Modern Times

Hill: Beirne's, Howard-Columbus; Wil-Mor's, Congress-Hallock; Len-Mac Cleaners, Howard-Sylvan; Martinez Grocery, Washington-West.

Fair Haven: Wil-Mor's, Grand-James; Marie's, Grand-Lloyd; Fair Haven Parents Ministry, Grand-James, Sal's Sandwich Shop, 188 Grand; Lenny's Market, St. Johns-Chestnut; Pequot Drug, Grand-East Pearl.

Downtown: Red's Newstand, Elm-State; News Depot, Orange-George; Band Box, Chapel near College; Whitlock's, Broadway; Angela Davis Bookstore, Broadway.

Hamden: Cherry Hill Pharmacy, 1830 Dixwell; Soybel Pharmacy, Dixwell-Wooding.

West Haven: Silver's, Campbell-Main; Liggett's, Campbell-Center; Rivoli Luncheonette, Campbell-Center.

Newhallville: Davis-Waller, Goodrich-Newhall; Visel's Drugs, Dixwell-Bassett; Bob's Market, Dixwell-Division.

State-Orange: Standard Food Market, 852 State; Orange-Grove Pharmacy; Whitney Pharmacy, near Edwards; Orange Market., 500 Orange.

Dixwell: Davis-Waller, Dixwell Plaza; Lake Variety, Dixwell-Lake Place; Windsor Drugs, Winchester-Webster; FH Discount, 138 Goffe St.

Westville: Beaver Hill Pharmacy, Fitch-Blake; Westville Pharmacy, Fountain-Central; Coyne Stationery, Amity Center; Lurie's Pharmacy, Whalley-Dayton.

Dwight: Volpe's Pharmacy, Chapel-Beers; Group W, Dwight-Edgewood; Esquire Restaurant, Chapel-Orchard.

Mid-town: Book World, Chapel-York; Superbooks, Chapel-York; Downstairs Gallery, York near Chapel; C & I Grocery, Norton-George; Audio Showcase, Whalley-Winthrop; LaBella's Luncheonette, 433 Chapel; Our Food Store, Whalley-Winthrop; Gary's New York Deli, 1207 Chapel; Ray's Coffee Shop, York-Chapel; Omnibus, Park near Crown.

ANGELA DAVIS BOOKSTORE MONTHLY FORUM

THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION OF A NEW BOOK BY GUS HALL ,COMMUNIST PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE,entitiled

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Labor Needs Own Party

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

This Second Anniversary Issue of Modern Times is an appropriate chance to bring up-to-date an important discussion. It is a discussion which pops up from time to time, among serious working people, active in groups where they work or live. I refer to the need for a political organization of working people, a labor party.

First, the basic argument. The Republican Party is everywhere seen as the party of business. The Democratic Party, while itself full of big business influences, tends to take for granted that labor will see no choice but to vote Democratic.

People concerned with the success of the labor movement, of community action groups, and the general betterment of the lives of working people do, in fact, choose the lesser evil when we vote Democratic. That may be the better thing to do, but is it really the best we can manage?

Lesson from Wisconsin

Working class voters in the Wisconsin Democratic Primary gave over half their votes to George McGovern and George Wallace despite their obvious differences. That means that over 50% of the electorate turned *away from the main-line, traditional* Democratic Party which was represented by Senators Muskie and Humphrey.

"They call it take-home pay because there's no other place you can afford to go with it!"

More important than the bare statistics, the reasons that the working class of people gave for their votes, teach us a key lesson. The big issue was taxes. The people knew that even when they could fight successfully for decent wages, the rising tax bite pushed them back down, So they voted for the only candidates who were loud and clear in their promises to cut taxes and shift more of the burden to the corporations and the rich.

Over a million working people in Wisconsin showed by their votes how urgently they want and need a better choice than either Nixon or the traditional Democrats.

What Can We Do

*But bold promises from eager candi*dates hardly deserve much trust or faith from us. At least not until we have the political power to make sure those promises are kept when it counts.

And that brings us face-to-face with the big issue: the political organization of working people.

This is the proposition for us to consider. Let us form immediately the following political coalition. It will include everyone who shares the view that all government policies from taxes to job creation to spending on education need to be drastically changed. The change called for means putting the needs and interests of working people first, ahead of the corporate rich.

Let this coalition form in every ward. Let it invite the participation of every courageous union and neighborhood action group. Let it mobilize the power of the vote into an effective political organization of working people. And that includes housewives, the unemployed, the retired, and those on welfare or in the schools.

The Party and Our Principle

If it is the feeling of those who agree with this idea and wish to become part of such a coalition that we must begin within the Democratic Party, so be it. What matters more than where we begin, is the principle we follow as we grow.

Is This Possible

The principle is this: to be effective, the coalition will support only those candidates who both promise and carry out the changes in government policy which we seek. Where we are strong enough, we will enter Democratic primaries with candidates of our own when other candidates oppose the aims of our coalition. And we must face the possibility of independent campaigns when that is the only way to offer voters a candidate pledged to our aims.

This is all a tall order. But do we really have much choice? Everywhere the old, traditional political arrangements are breaking up under the strain of modern times. People are tired of the attacks of government just when we thought we had successfully resisted the demands of the employers.

And after all, if it seems too much to achieve, think about the limitless possibilities if a coalition of this type can come to touch the hopes of the people and thus tap their energy and creativity.

Reform Democrats Win Town Committee Seats

by Jeffrey Bannon
2nd Ward Democratic Committee

On Tuesday, April 11, New Haven Democrats held a primary for Town Committee. The contest, which was held in 14 of the city's 30 wards, pitted the "Reform" Democrats against the "Regulars" loyal to Town Chairman Arthur T. Barbieri. The Town Committee is composed of two representatives (a chairman and a Chairwoman) from each ward.

The Regulars and the Reformers each ran strong campaigns--both sides winning seats. The Reformers won 14 of the 26 seats contested in the primary. However, since the Reformers only primaried in the wards where they had strength, the resulting Town Committee is strongly controlled by the Regulars and Chairman Barbieri. 34 of the seats were uncontested, and of these 32 are Regular seats.

The total of 60 seats is now divided 44 to 14 in favor of the Regulars, with two more "Independents" who were unchallenged. There are, therefore, 16 seats not necessarily loyal to Mr. Barbieri.

Powerful Institution

The Democratic Town Committee is a powerful and important institution in predominantly Democratic New Haven. It is the governing body of the New Haven Democratic Party. The Committee is responsible for nominating the Democratic candidates for city office and state office (the Mayor, Aldermen, Town Clerk, state representatives and state senators), as well as selecting delegates to conventions which nominate candidates for higher office (President, Congressmen, Senators, etc.).

Reform vs. Regular

The Regulars, who are led by Democratic Town Chairman Arthur Barbieri, is the group that maintains a Democratic political organization built over the last 20 years. They are, at the present time, the most powerful political group in New Haven.

The Reformers are a loose coalition of New Haven Democrats who have challenged the Regular organization in the name of "liberalism" and "reform". This coalition, which historically has been confined to the western half of the city, includes former supporters of Henry Parker, former supporters of Mayor Lee, and many other independent liberals.

In this context, the Town Committee Primary shows some progress for the Reformers, as well as showing quite clearly that they have a very long road ahead of them if their goal is to gain control of the New Haven Democratic Party. The Reformers showed progress in two ways: first, there was a net gain in Non-Regular membership on the Town Committee; and second, the primary showed some evidence that the Reformers are expanding their coalition and base of support. Even in their losses, Reformers ran strongly in wards where they had had virtually no support in the past.

Art in the City

Art in the city is really close to you. An example is Louis Benanno, Jr.'s "Squaw with Papooses." The statue is located in Edgewood Ave. Park in the city.

PERISCOPE
On The Environment

by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff

BITES HAND THAT FEEDS HIM -- U. S. Senator Weicker at a Sierra Club Dinner last February stated "Ecological lynch mobs" have replaced "environmental rapists." He implied that there was an unsavory connection between Vietnam war protest and the environmental activism at home.

CONNECTICUT AIR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN -- Meskill submitted an air implementation plan to the federal government calling for a 0.5% sulfur limit on fossil fuel and a registration system for all sources of air pollution. However, it contained no provisions for air pollution in factories where it is worst.

BIKEOLOGY WEEK -- The first week in May has been designated "National Bikeology Week." It is sponsored by the Friends for Bikeology, 1035 E. Dela Guerra St., Santa Barbara, California 93103. It would be an excellent idea to establish a local chapter which could work for bicycle paths, bicycle park and lock space and encourage a better environment by reducing "autopia."

On The Job Problems of Teacher's Aide

Inez Brooks with children at Headstart Center at East Pearl Methodist Church. (M-T photo by Paul Gill)

This feature appears regularly in **Modern Times.** *We ask for articles that talk about the kinds of jobs our readers have and about how workers struggle against profit-minded employers to make their jobs better, more dignified, and more useful for the whole community. We welcome the story you have to tell.*

Call us or send it in to **Modern Times** *441 Chapel St., New Haven, Conn. 06510 (562-2510).*

by Inez Brooks
A Headstart Teacher

I work in the Headstart program as a head teacher. The particular center I'm connected with is East Pearl Street. I plan curriculum and trips and parent-teacher conferences.

This year there is a new guide line. The programs are to go 5 hours and service 20 children instead of 30 as before. The children have to be three years and 8 months old by September. It's a preschool program and the next year the children will be old enough to go to kindergarten.

There is no certified teacher connected with us in the center. This is my second year as associate teacher and I make $5000. In one sense the promotion really makes you interested in going back to school and really being in charge of a classroom. But on the other hand, it really seems that the Board of Education doesn't want to pay for it. With a degree or without you should be compensated for what you are doing. They have certified teachers in the Headstart program who are making over $10,000 a year - doing the same work I'm doing.

Parent Participation

Headstart requires a lot of parent participation. And we have a parent almost every day. Of course, I stress the point. If it's Jerry, I say, "Oh, Jerry, thank you very much for bringing your mother too", I'll tell him. I call him the special child for the day. Instead of me pestering the mothers, this puts it on the child.

I want the mothers to feel comfortable. In the beginning of the year, the mothers feel quite shy. They're afraid they won't do what you want them to do.

The children come in at 8:30 in the morning and we have cereal and juice. We have their names on the wall with hooks and they try to find their own hooks. We've been doing it since September and most of the children now recognize their names. We don't really teach reading, but we try to get them ready for that. Those who don't want breakfast can do whatever they want - block building, housekeeping, etc. They like to play supermarket. I keep that going from 8:30 till 10:30 followed by cleanup and routine bathroom.

Then we often sit down and have a story and then we go upstairs to the gym. We can't go outside because the health department says the playground is unsafe. After that we come down and get washed up and the children get ready for lunch. There's a hot lunch program.

We have lunch and we talk about the food, and what color it is and how many people there are at the table. I try to encourage the kids' thought processes. When rest period is over - it lasts about 20 minutes after lunch- most of the time we do art activity. And then it's juice time and before you know it, time to go home.

We stress socialization more than anything else. This is especially important in September. Many children have never been outside the home before. It's wonderful work. I really enjoy it...except the rewards from it.

Board Won't Pay

The pay is unbelievable and the Board of Education doesn't want to move. It's very discouraging. They don't want to know anything. When I took the job, it paid $3200 a year. I had just had my children, so I figured it would mean some income for me and also it's a kind of free time job. So I took it. But then I began to become really aware of salaries. I also grew more aware of what I was doing in comparison with the girl I was working with. She was certified, but as a music teacher. She had never worked with 3 and 4 year olds. I realized that I was really training her. My practical knowledge was helping her to master the classroom and my pay wasn't half of hers.

When Headstart began the associate teacher program, I applied the second year. Where there was a vacancy, instead of hiring a certified teacher, if you'd had 3 years experience with children in the program, you could apply for the job. I did and it was granted. At that time I was making $3600, about $60 take home a week.

The first year it was really exciting. At night you kept thinking of all the exciting things you were going to do with the kids the next day. A wonderful opportunity - being head teacher in the classroom. The headache was you still weren't getting paid for it.

Last year we worked with the Bank Street School of Education. Headstart hired them as consultants. They are fabulous with training teachers. I was really carried away with the help they gave us. They were always able to find something fabulous about what we were doing in the classroom. They pointed out ways that you might want to try to improve things - it was completely left up to you. It was a very good program - it's too bad it couldn't be continued.

The children engage in "real-life" games like building, housekeeping, and supermarket. The girl with her back to the camera seems to be presenting the rules of school (on the cabinet next to her). (M-T photo by Paul Gill)

Need for a Union

We paraprofessionals are the stepchildren in education. That is why all of us felt that we ought to have a union. One that could legally negotiate. About 2 years ago a group of paraprofessionals went down to the Board of Education. We tried to negotiate, but they just told us, "We don't have to negotiate with you."

I'm the vice-president of the paraprofessionals' union. It's just getting started. The teachers have had their union for years and they can make substantial gains. But I often think that the first contract must have been really hectic. We're having an awful time. It seems to be the only way out, but it is a very slow process.

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